SHOKO KONAMI
こなみ詔子
ぼくたち
男の子
1

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SCENE 1

WE ARE BOYS
HEY, HEY, HEY. HEY, HEY, HEY.
COME OUT AND PLAY, COME ON!
TOWARD A WORLD OF OUR OWN
WE'RE RUNNING ALONG.

BY HIROMI GO

日本音楽著作権協会(出)許諾第9202239-201号

The boundless sky of ceaseless winds
A boy with eyes that shared its color
Who thought
...I CAN'T KEEP GOING LIKE THIS

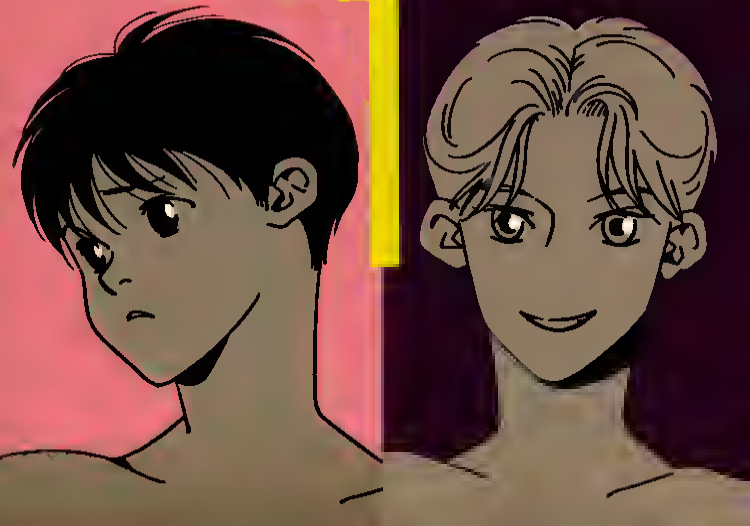
OH, RIGHT..
BUT WE DON'T NEED ONE, TAMIO. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
TAKASHI! I CAUGHT A BITTERLING! A BITTERLING!
WE CAME TO GET A FROG FOR THE DISSECTION TOMORROW.
I SHOULDN'T BE GETTING EXCITED OVER A FISH
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? A BITTERLING WOULD BE TOO SMALL AND AREN'T THEY CLASSIFIED DIFFERENT?
TAKE A FROG OR TAKE A BITTERLING. I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.

ASUKA COMICS DELUXE

ぼくたち男の子

こなみ詔子
SHOKO KONAMI

1



ぼくたちの男の子

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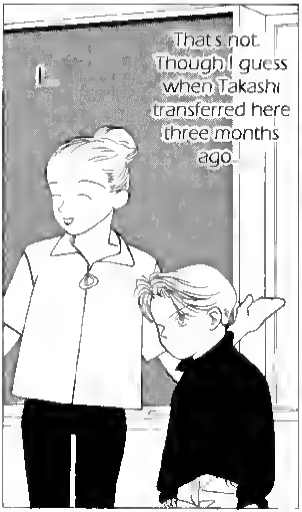
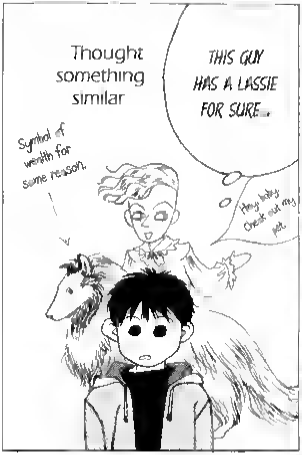
WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

flap
flap
flap
flap
WOOO

The countryside is no place for a face like mine!
Gaaah, I hate this! I hate it! I can't take it out here in the sticks!





*Note: Tanioka Yasuji (1942–1999). Wrote numerous nonsense manga. His main characters were often anthropomorphic animals such as a pipe-smoking cow. He was also apparently the mangaka to introduce and popularize the old wives' tale that boys get nosebleeds when aroused.

*The show is still running here in the country

I was sure he'd have a tuna sandwich for lunch
His pet was a fat tortoise-shell cat named North Sea.
And here's my cute little kitty
A whisker from his mate...
That's it
TAKASHI-KUN MAY LOOK LIKE A FOREIGNER, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY HALF JAPANESE.
And he actually did, but
Well. And half not so that's why he looks like this.
You shouldn't be so sure of what you think you do or don't like
Don't be like that
His favorite food was natto
The kind of guy who will eat at your place when he comes to pick you up in the morning
I don't like green onions either
It's great with green onions

Note Natto - A traditional Japanese food made of fermented soybeans. Popular for breakfast. Sticky and spider-web-like between the beans. It is infamous for its strong odor which makes it unappealing to many or considered an acquired taste.

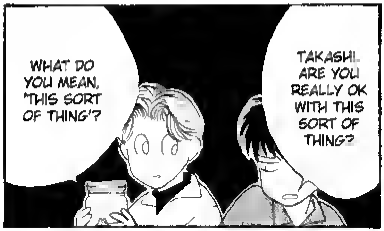
LET'S GO FARTHER UPSTREAM.
LOOK, TAMIO! IT'S A CRAYFISH!
AH!
ARE YOU OK? AH, YOU'RE BLEEDING SO MUCH!
OW~ IT PINCHED ME
I'M FINE IT'S BARELY ANYTHING.

I thought we were getting pretty close, but.

Around the freshly cracked wound, his blood flared together with saliva.

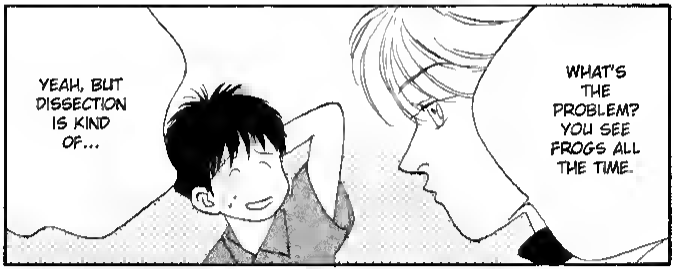
Always, just like this
If he does, then I'll follow him.
Will he really leave when he grows up?

ONCE IT'S IN, MAKE SURE TO CLOSE THE JAR RIGHT AWAY, OK?
Yes Ma'am
I'LL BE DROPPING A BALL OF COTTON IN YOUR JARS.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THIS SORT OF THING"?
TAKASHI, ARE YOU REALLY OK WITH THIS SORT OF THING?

LIKE, YOU KNOW... ORGANS AND STUFF

DON'T GET SO ANTSY.
Here you go


YEAH, BUT DISSECTION IS KIND OF...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU SEE FROGS ALL THE TIME.

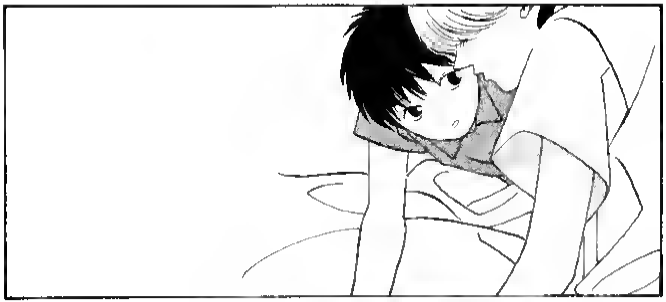
HEY, DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU CUT A FROG'S VEIN, BLOOD WILL SQUIRT OUT WITH EVERY HEART-BEAT?
TAMIO.
grin
IF THE BLOOD TOUCHES YOU, YOU GET A FROG HEAD BOIL. A FROG HEAD GROWS RIGHT ON YOUR SKIN!

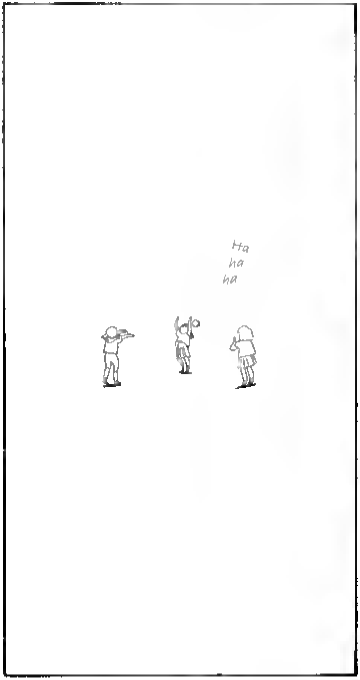
AND THEN, EVERY NIGHT AT MIDNIGHT, ALL TOGETHER...
I CAN'T HEAR YOU! I CAN'T HEAR A SINGLE WORD!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL, TAMIO
WAAAH!
THE FROG HEAD SPITS OUT GOO FROM ITS MOUTH AND IT MAKES MORE OF THEM GROW ALL OVER YOUR BODY.
THEY SING THE FROG SONG IN A ROUND!!!

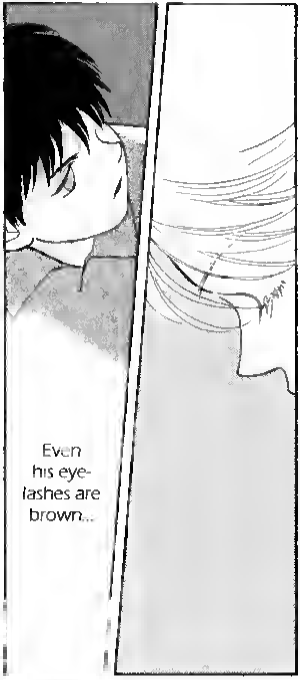
Note: The Frog Song – A traditional Japanese song. It goes "We can hear the frog's song," followed by frog noises gwa and gero. Gero also happens to be the noise of puking.

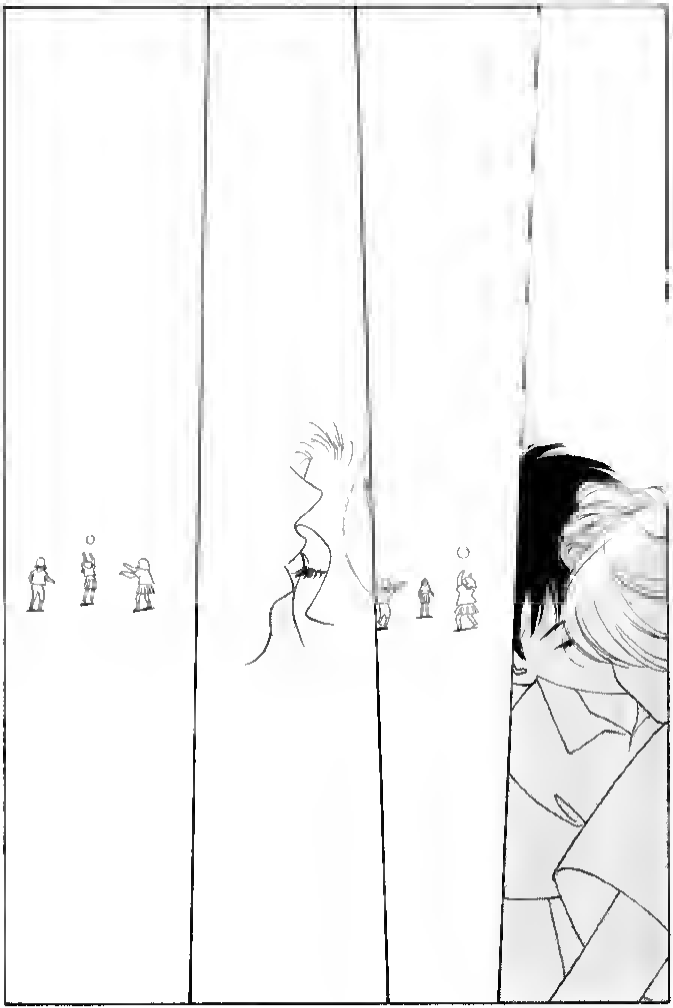
I SAID BE...
WAH! I WAS LYING, OK? SO BE QUIET, TAMIO!
...QUIET!
TAMIO!!
HASE-KUN!?

Aah,
help me.
The frogs
are singing
a round.




Ha
ha
ha


Even his eyelashes are brown...



.....
はっ
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP

ほっ
Phew...
こそこそ
No one noticed...

Note: Purin - A dessert popular in Japan. While clearly derived from the word "pudding," purin is actually a custard pudding more similar to flan/crema caramel than what we would call pudding.

IT'S TRUE. IT WAS WRITTEN ON THE MENU THIS MORNING.
NO WAY!
YOU CAN HAVE MINE, TAKASHI.
WHY?
.....
I THOUGHT YOU LIKED TO FREEZE IT?

I'M FINE, JUST TAKE IT
REALLY? WELL IF YOU REALLY WANT TO...
OF COURSE...
EVEN THOUGH I LOVE THE SCHOOL'S PURIN SO MUCH I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND SEVENTEEN DAYS...
AND EVEN THOUGH WHEN I DO GET SOME IT JUST SEEMS A WASTE TO EAT IT ALL AND I TAKE IT HOME TO FREEZE...
AND EVEN THOUGH AFTER THAT I JUST RATION IT OUT LITTLE BY LITTLE TILL THE NEXT TIME IT'S ON THE MENU...
.....
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THAT PRECIOUS TO ME, YOU GO AHEAD AND EAT IT!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT I'M JUST GOING TO FEEL TOTALLY GUILTY!!!

WHATEVER, JUST TAKE IT BACK.
HOW COME?
ごほん COUGH
ばっ
.....
CAUSE IF I EAT IT YOU'LL JUST GET BITTER YOU'LL HOLD IT AGAINST ME FOREVER
I WON'T, I PROMISE!
SERIOUSLY?
YEAH! I JUST WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME SOMETHING!

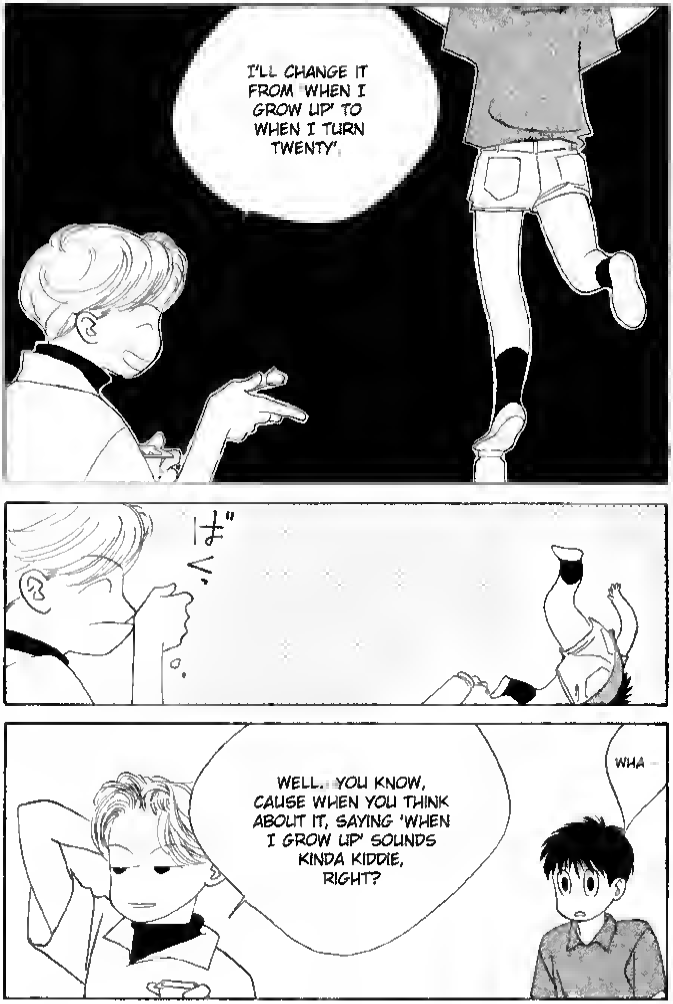
PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T GO AWAY WHEN YOU GROW UP!
PROMISE YOU?

OH...
SO THAT'S
WHAT IT'S
ABOUT...

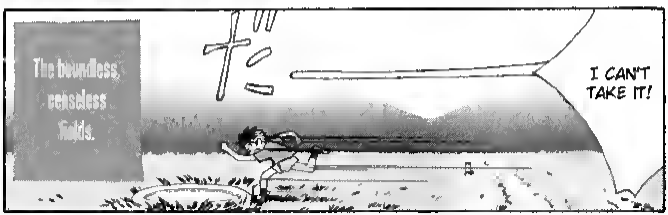
OK,
SURE.
びくっ
YOU
MEAN...

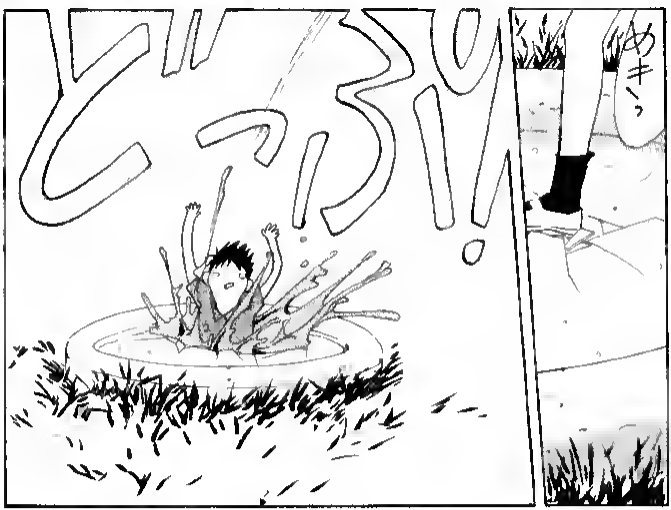
YEAH.
REALLY?

I'm so happy!
I...


I'LL CHANGE IT FROM 'WHEN I GROW UP' TO WHEN I TURN TWENTY'.
はぁ"
WELL... YOU KNOW, CAUSE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, SAYING 'WHEN I GROW UP' SOUNDS KINDA KIDDIE, RIGHT?
WHA—

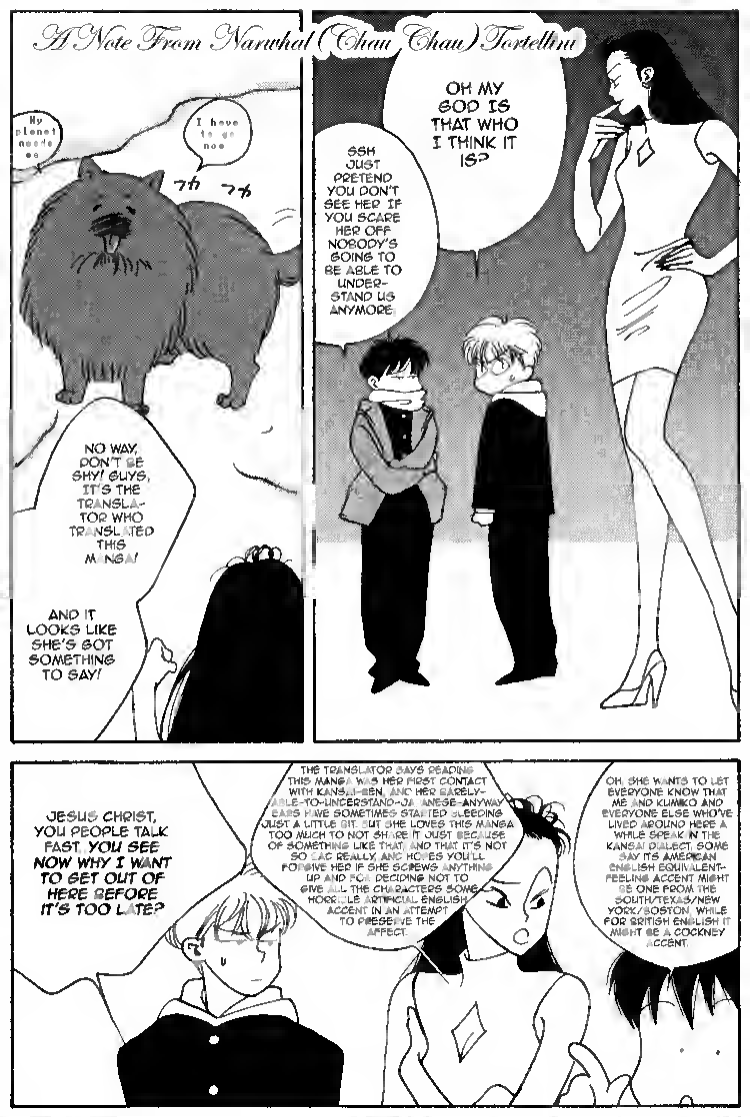
ALL THIS...
I... I..


The boundless, ceaseless fields.
I CAN'T TAKE IT!


どっろ!!
あキぃっ

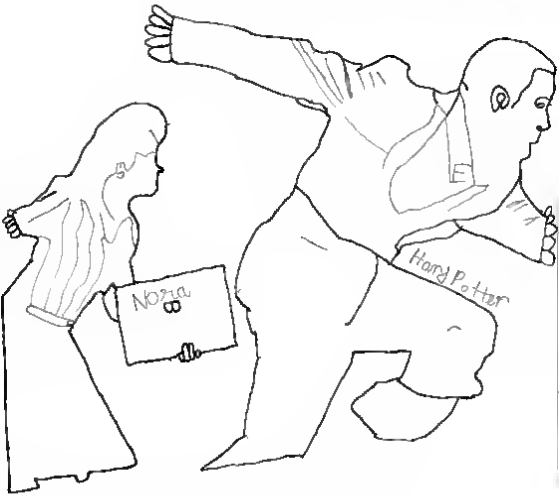
Who thought
A boy with eyes that shared the color of the pots in that field
SNIFF
SNIFF
HIC
He may say that, but he's already picking up the dialect and fitting in here
Though either way, if he leaves, I'm coming with him

SCENE·1——END


A Note From Narwhal (Chau Chau) Tortellini
My planet needs me
I have to go now
NO WAY, DON'T BE SHY! GUYS, IT'S THE TRANSLATOR WHO TRANSLATED THIS MANGA!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY!
OH MY GOD IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?
SSH JUST PRETEND YOU DON'T SEE HER IF YOU SCARE HER OFF NOBODY'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND US ANYMORE.
JESUS CHRIST, YOU PEOPLE TALK FAST. YOU SEE NOW WHY I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?
THE TRANSLATOR SAYS READING THIS MANGA WAS HER FIRST CONTACT WITH KANSAI-BEN, AND HER BARELY-ABLE-TO-UNDERSTAND-JAPANESE-ANYWAY EARS HAVE SOMETIMES STARTED BLEEDING JUST A LITTLE BIT. BUT SHE LOVES THIS MANGA TOO MUCH TO NOT SHARE IT JUST BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AND THAT IT'S NOT SO BAD REALLY, AND HOPES YOU'LL FORGIVE HER IF SHE SCREWS ANYTHING UP AND FOR DECIDING NOT TO GIVE ALL THE CHARACTERS SOME HORRIBLE ARTIFICIAL ENGLISH ACCENT IN AN ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE THE AFFECT.
OH, SHE WANTS TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT ME AND KUMIKO AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO'VE LIVED AROUND HERE A WHILE SPEAK IN THE KANSAI DIALECT. SOME SAY ITS AMERICAN ENGLISH EQUIVALENT-FEELING ACCENT MIGHT BE ONE FROM THE SOUTH/TEXAS/NEW YORK/BOSTON. WHILE FOR BRITISH ENGLISH IT MIGHT BE A COCKNEY ACCENT.

amber loVE PJ

Scanned, Translated, and
Edited by HarwoodLoveTellin



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SCENE
2

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU WON'T COME ALONG?
BUT ONLY THE SUN
IS WATCHING, YOU KNOW
GAZING NOW AT THE
BRILLIANCE YOU SHOW.

BY HIROMI GO

ROCK,
PAPER,
SCISSORS!

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS, SHOOT! ROCK PAPER SCISSORS...
SHOOT!
MAN, IT'S HOT...
Shut up...
しゃわ
しゃわ
しゃわ

WHEN IT GETS THIS HOT I NEVER FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING.
I'VE STILL GOT THE REST OF THE JOURNAL, BUT OTHER THAN THAT I'VE ONLY GOT A LITTLE LEFT.
NO WAY!
LIKE OUR SUMMER HOME-WORK AND STUFF, YOU KNOW?
I'VE ALMOST FINISHED MINE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?

What should I do? I haven't done a single page
ABOUT THE SAME, I GUESS.
HUH? ME?
Ah.
HM?
HEY~
WANNA STAY OVER AT MY PLACE TONIGHT?

WE CAN FINISH WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR HOME-WORK.
THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT AND CAN SPEND THE REST OF THE SUMMER PLAYING.
EH?
HUH?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
?
だぼん!
RIGHT?
...AH. YEAH.

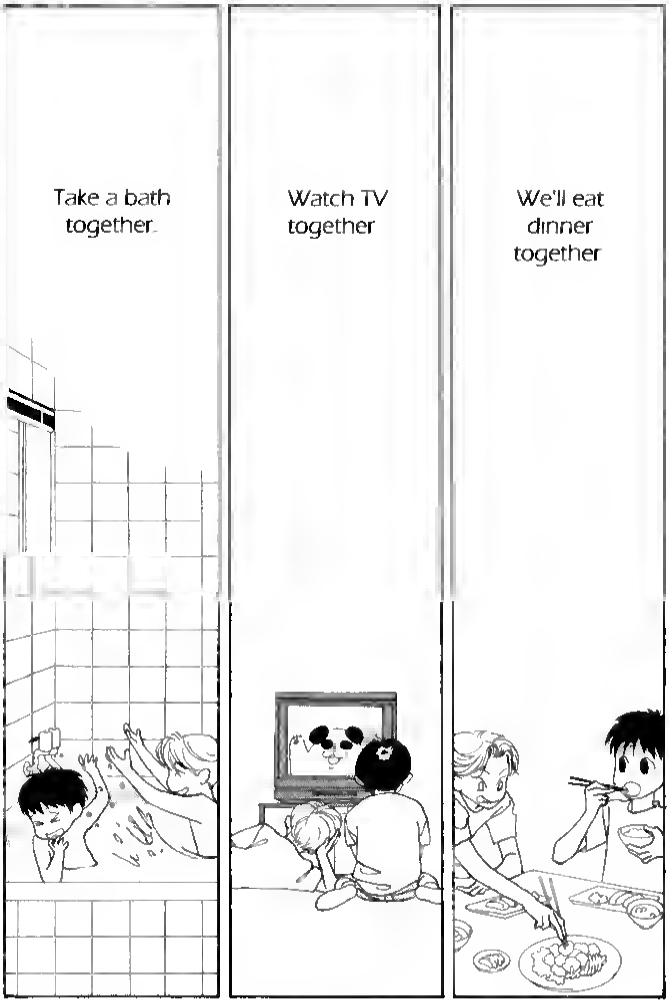
Staying the night means...

Stay the night

badump

badump

badump


Take a bath together.
Watch TV together
We'll eat dinner together

Basically,
We'll be
together till
morning!

I wonder if she'll be here today.

I've come over plenty of times before, but I've never actually met Takashi's mom, have I?

DING-DONG

ピンポーン

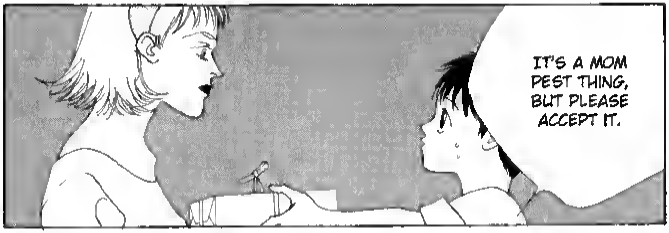
Tell them "It's a modest thing, but please accept it."

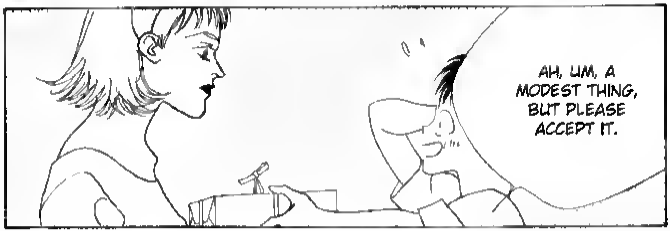
TAKIO'S MAMA

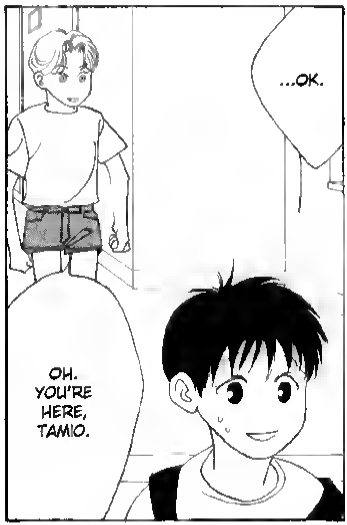
Saying something like that...

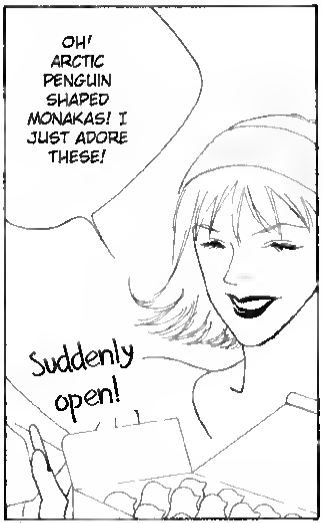
チャッ
Ah
I can't
speak
English...
Ah. Um...
にっこり
smile

Ah.
YOU'RE SO CUTE~! IT'S SO GOOD YOU'VE COME, TAMIO-CHAN!
She speaks our dialect
UM...
FROM MY MOM...





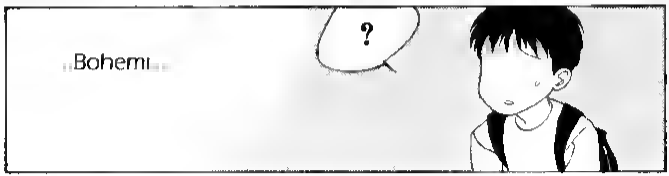




Note: Monakas – Bean jam filled rice cake wafers

× THEY'RE REALLY FROM OSAKA WHY THEY'RE SUPPOSEDLY ARCTIC PENGUINS IS BEST NOT TO BOTHER ABOUT

LET'S GO UP-STAIRS
AH, OK.
Y-YOUR MOM SEEMS KINDA DIF-FERENT, HUH?
SHE MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT SHE WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN TOKYO
THOUGH SHE MOVED TO SOUTH AFRICA RIGHT AFTER SHE WAS BORN, AND THEN KYOUTO, AND PAKI-STAN, THEN TOKYO AGAIN, AND NOW SHE'S HERE.



This house is kind of weird

IF SOMEONE ELSE LOOKS AT IT WHEN I'M IN THE MIDDLE I LOOSE THE WILL TO FINISH!
WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT?
!!
I-I'VE ONLY GOT A LITTLE LEFT!
HUH...
Hasn't actually finished anything
BADUMP
BADUMP
OK.
I'M GONNA GO DOWN-STAIRS FOR A SEC.
TAKASHI, WOULD YOU COME HERE FOR A SECOND?
Don't look
OK!

にこっ
へらっ

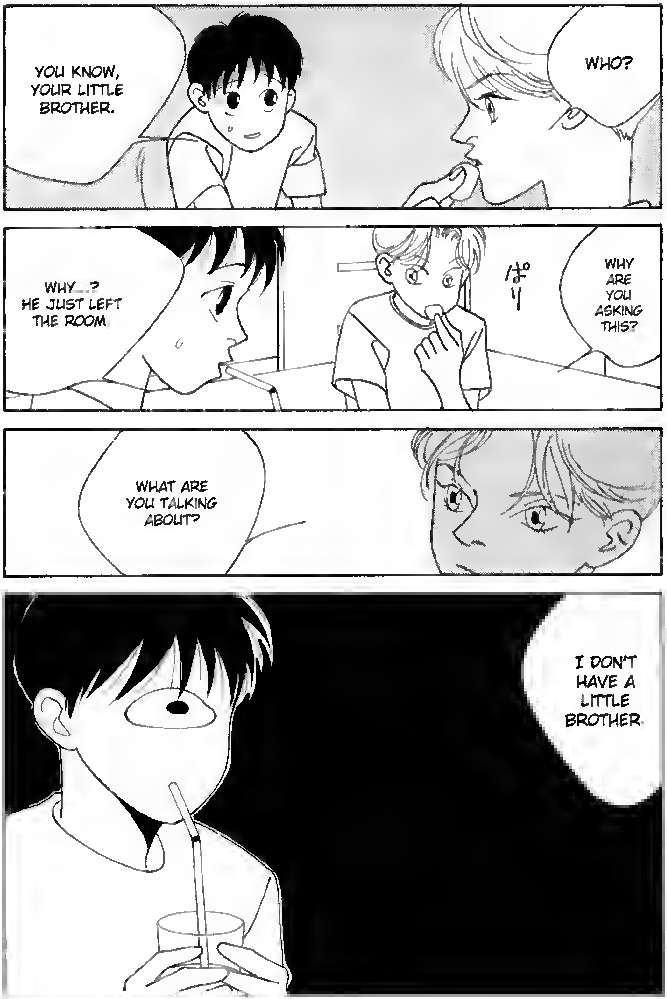
IF YOU LOOK AT IT, HE'LL GET UPSET AND WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH ..
真の本
AH!
ぴらっ
ふかぶか
THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER TAKASHI.
AH... THANK YOU, TOO!

TOHRU.
SAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I didn't know Takashi had such a proper little brother...
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD, BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY RIGHT...
AH, SO I'LL CALL YOU TOHRU-KUN!
HM...

Note: Kun - An honorific used to address male children, other younger males, or a male of similar age to the speaker

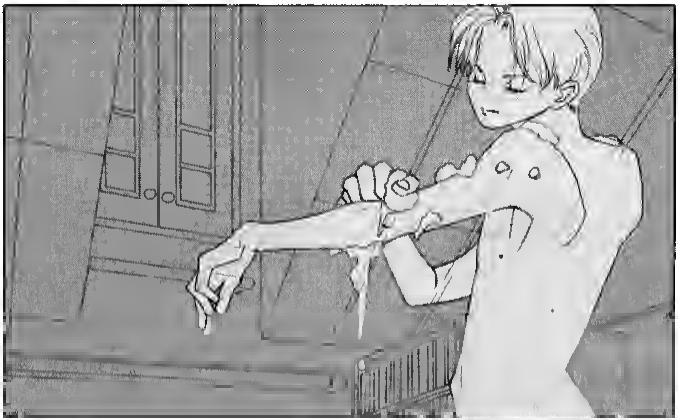
WHY DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT HIM AND PLAY WITH ME.
SAY.
はぁっ
UM, YOU KNOW YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE LOOKING AT..
HUH?
DO YOU PLAY GOLF?
EH?
UM...
IT'LL BE GREAT.
WHA?
OR HOW ABOUT MAHJONG?
.....
Haha
NO, EH? TOO BAD. IT'LL BE HARD FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET OUT INTO SOCIETY, YOU KNOW.

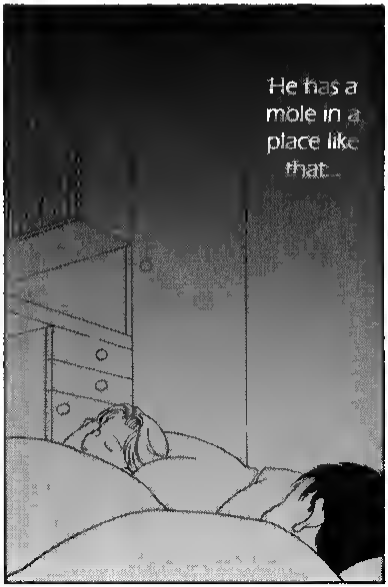
ACK, THIS THING IS HEAVY!
WELL, KEEP AT IT, THEN. STUDY HARD!
WASN'T YOUR LITTLE BROTHER JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR?
YEAH?
AH, UM...
HERE, MOM SAYS EAT THIS.

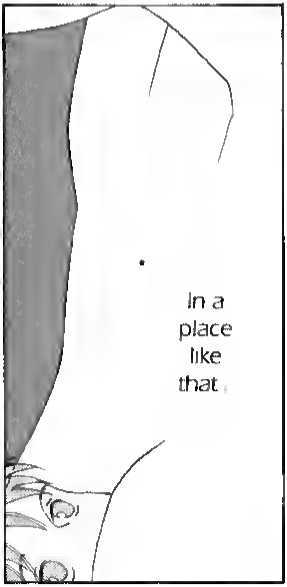

YOU KNOW, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
WHO?
WHY...? HE JUST LEFT THE ROOM.
WHY ARE YOU ASKING THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER.

THAT'S TOTALLY WAY SCARY!
WOW, TAKASHI'S FAMILY WILL BE REALLY PROS-PEROUS .. NO, WAIT!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN ONLY CHILD!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ON ABOUT...
That...
That means...
IT'S A ZASHIKI-WARASHI!!!
ざしきわらし!!!
ぼ"ニぼ"ニぼ"ニ

Zashiki-warashi: A house spirit in the form of a child that brings luck to the household



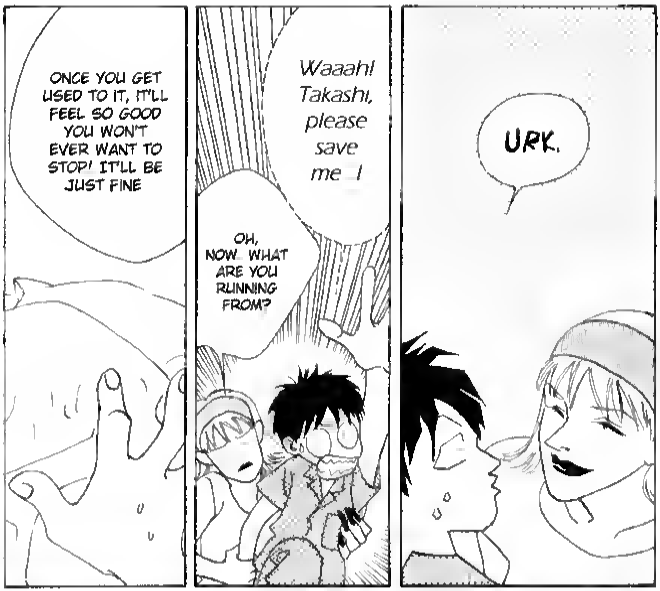

He has a mole in a place like that...


In a place like that.

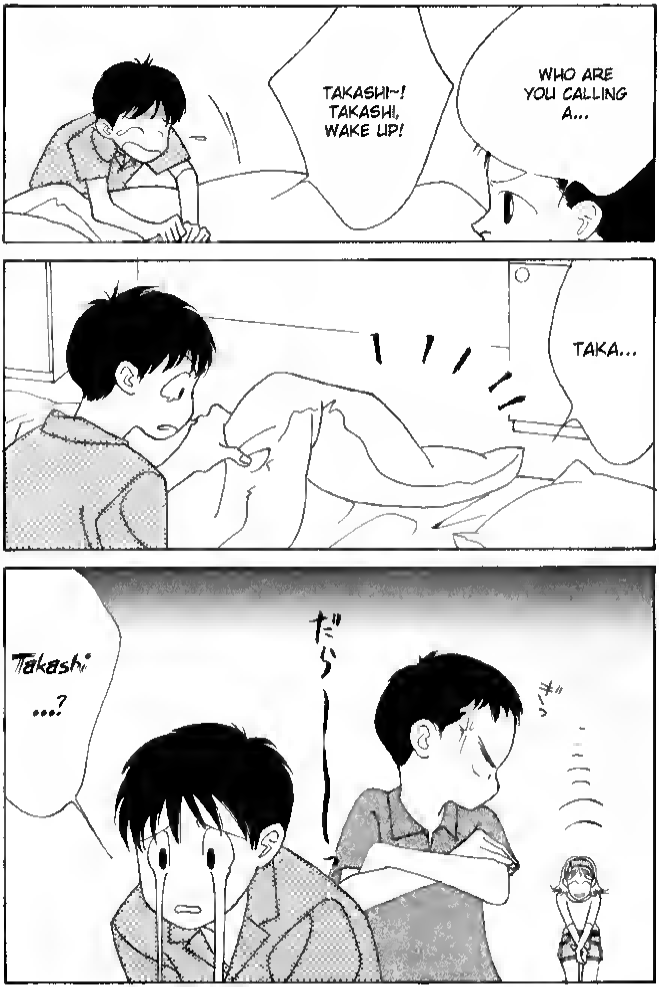
Who..
Who's coming in!?
Huh?
Waah

...SO CUTE!
♥
あっ
MMM~ EVEN CUTER THAN I IMAGINED!
♥
EH?
AH, UM, MA'AM...
むぎゅ～

I...
OH, BUT YOU REALLY ARE SO CUTE!
IT'S SARAH. YOU CALL ME BY MY NAME. CALL ME MA'AM AGAIN, AND I'LL BEAT YOU TO DEATH.
SHEA-WRA...
I JUST ADORE CUTE LITTLE BOYS.
SMACK


ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, IT'LL FEEL SO GOOD YOU WON'T EVER WANT TO STOP! IT'LL BE JUST FINE
Waaah! Takashi, please save me !
OH, NOW. WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING FROM?
URK.
カチッ
click

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
THE ZASHIKI-WARA-SHI!
AH... TOHRU.
THIS, THIS IS, UH...
AH.
Ahahah!


TAKASHI~! TAKASHI, WAKE UP!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A...
TAKA...
だら～～～
Takashi ...?

TAKASHI, PLEASE SAVE M—
ガ
ン
だ——っ
IF YOU WANT TAKASHI, HE'S IN THE OTHER ROOM.
AH...
TAKASHI!
M-MY HOME-WORK...

D...DAD?
WAAH! I'M SORRY! DAD, I'M SORRY!
USING OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THAT! AGAIN!
I'M NOT GOING TO TOLERATE THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR!
AND YOU!
Eek
But I like them
After summer break ended, due to Takashi having copied my homework word for word, including my journal, we were heavily scolded by our teacher.
Taka-kun~!!

SCENE•2——END

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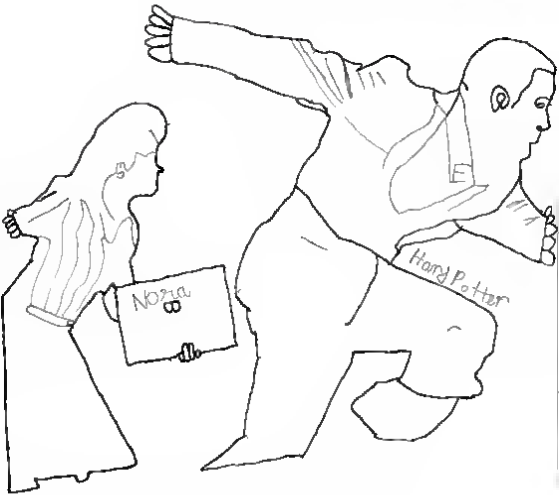

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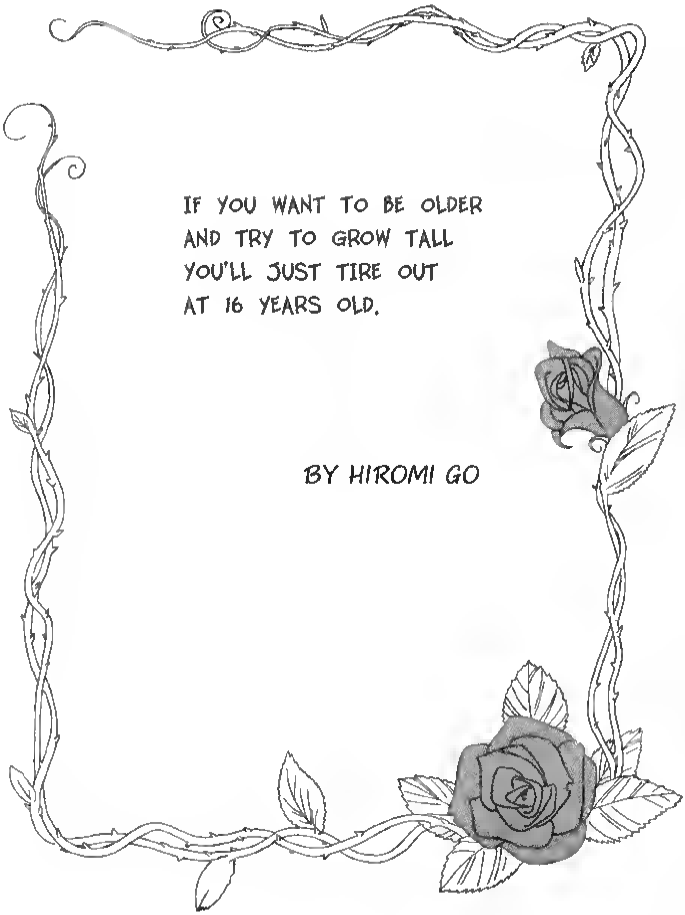
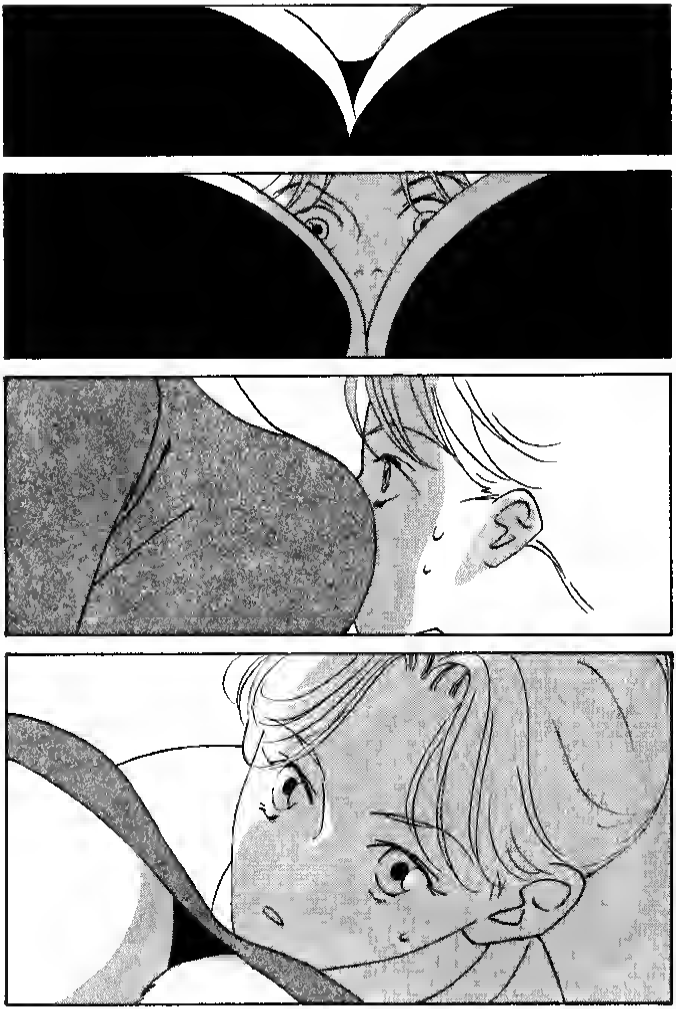
SCENE
3



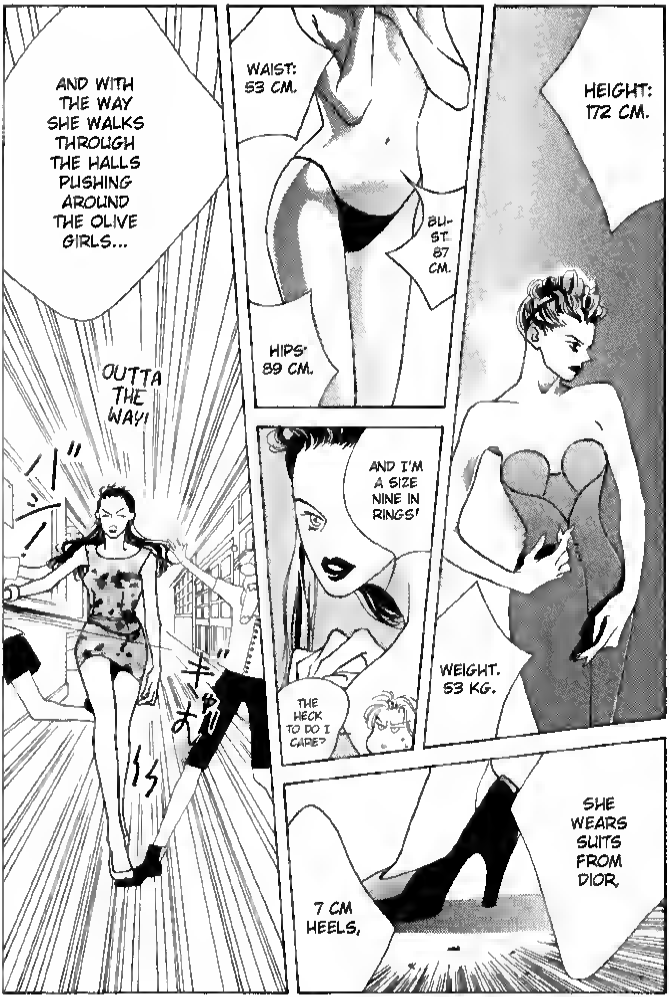
IF YOU WANT TO BE OLDER
AND TRY TO GROW TALL
YOU'LL JUST TIRE OUT
AT 16 YEARS OLD.

BY HIROMI GO



HEY...
ツカツカツカ
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
TAKASHI, SHE'S NOT A TEACHER.
WHAT THE HECK? HOW CAN A TEACHER BE SO STUCK UP...

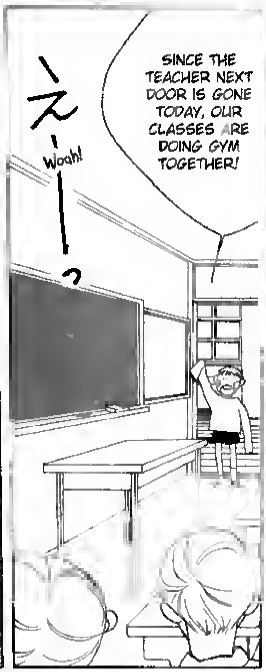
Note: In Japanese family names are said first. Tamio says Kumiko's name in the western given-name-first fashion.

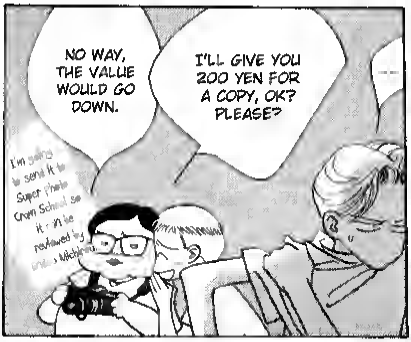

AND WITH THE WAY SHE WALKS THROUGH THE HALLS PUSHING AROUND THE OLIVE GIRLS...
OUTTA THE WAY!!
WAIST: 53 CM.
BUST 87 CM.
HIPS: 89 CM.
HEIGHT: 172 CM.
AND I'M A SIZE NINE IN RINGS!
THE HECK TO DO I CARE?
WEIGHT. 53 KG.
SHE WEARS SUITS FROM DIOR,
7 CM HEELS,

Note: Olive was a Japanese magazine from the 80s/90s that focused on urban schoolgirl culture/lifestyle. Olive readers apparently had a certain schoolgirl fashion they followed.

Though a grade school kid like me could never understand a reference like that.
. SHE'S COME TO BE KNOWN BETWEEN THE TEACHERS AS THE SECOND COMING OF MATSUZAKA KIMIKO.
4-1
HUH...
HEY!

Note: Matsuzaka Kimiko: A Japanese porn star prominent during the late 80s/early 90s famous for her large breasts. I am unaware of what connection/animosity there may be between her and Olive Girls. If that is what Tamio actually meant.

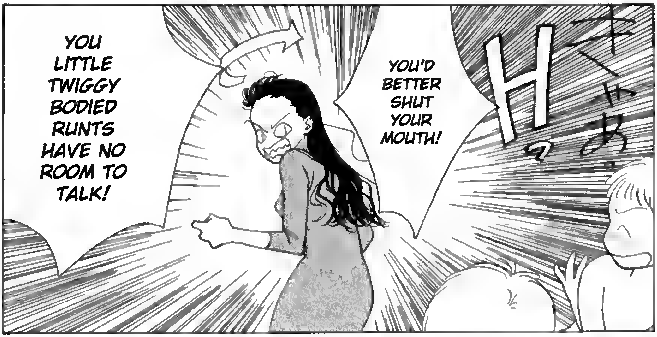


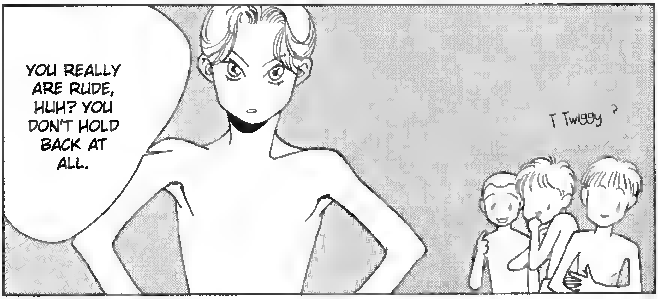

NO WAY, THE VALUE WOULD GO DOWN.
I'LL GIVE YOU 200 YEN FOR A COPY, OK? PLEASE?
I'm going to send it to Super Photo Cram School so it can be reviewed by one... Michiru!

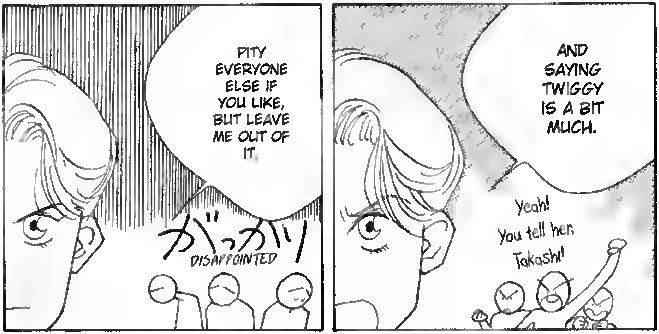
Note: Super Photo Cram School - Appears to be a magazine dedicated to photos of schoolgirls

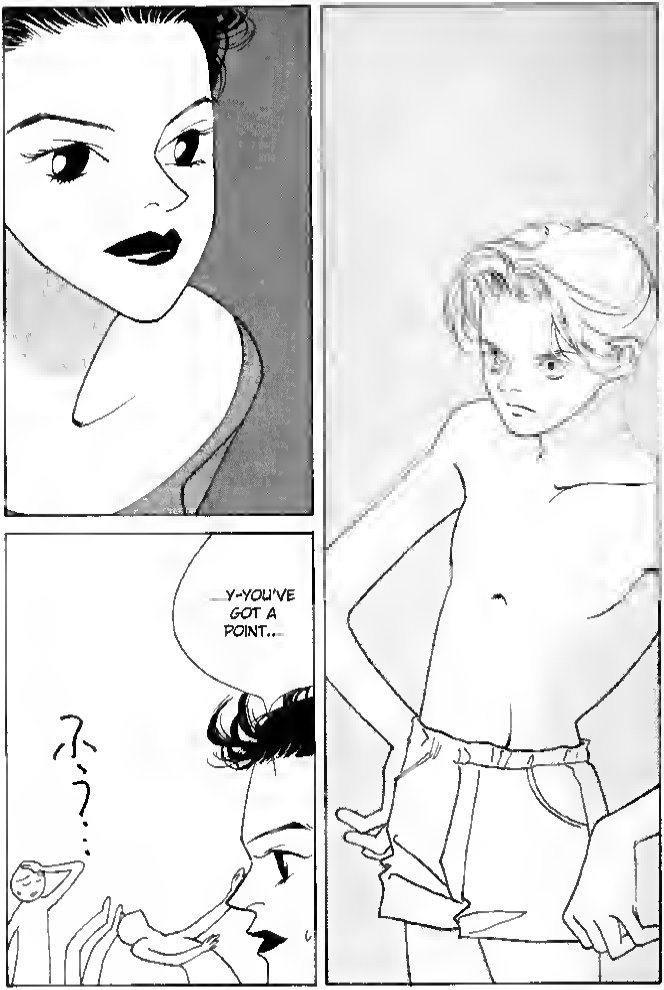
Endou Michirou - Vocalist of the 80s Japanese punk rock band (now going solo with an acoustic band). Apparently sometimes contributed to Super Photo Cram School in a section called "Seshimi Land," though I am unsure what exactly it was

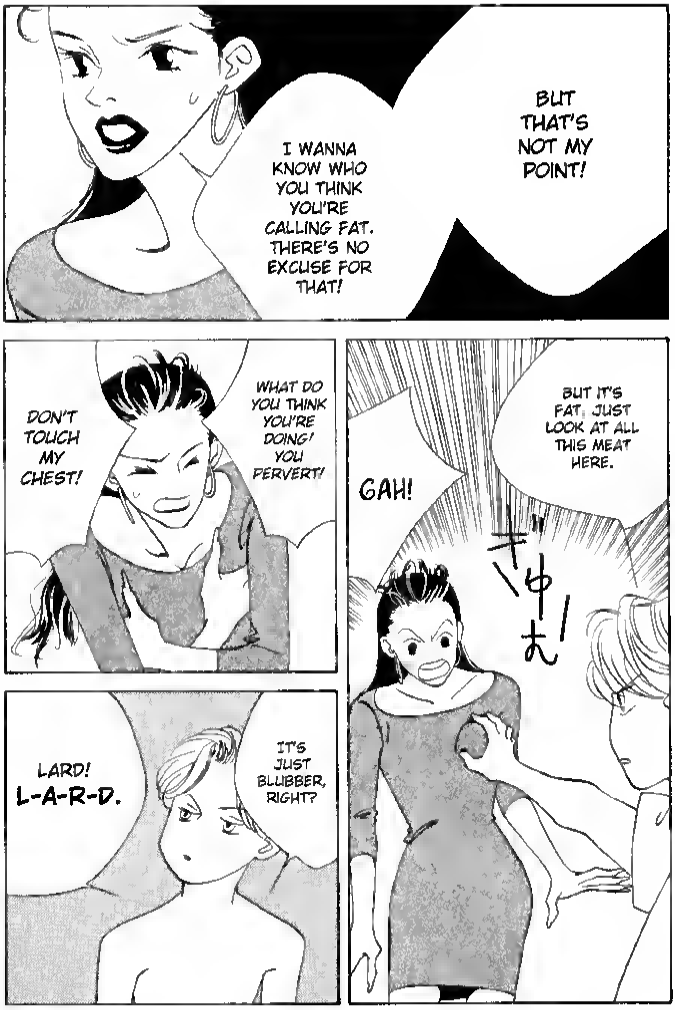
I DON'T SEE THE ATTRACTION
IT'S... NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT KINDA OF THING, BUT...
YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN TALKING LIKE THAT
Y-YOU DON'T LIKE GIRLS WITH BIG BOSOMS, TAKASHI?
WHO ARE YOU CALLING FAT!?
HAVING ALL THAT EXTRA MEAT JUST LOOKS ANNOYING. IT'S FAT, THAT'S IT!
I'll be frank


YOU LITTLE TWIGGY BODIED RUNTS HAVE NO ROOM TO TALK!
YOU'D BETTER SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
Hキャ


YOU REALLY ARE RUDE, HUH? YOU DON'T HOLD BACK AT ALL.
T Twiggy ?

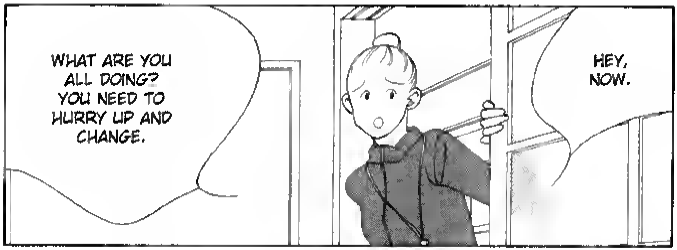

PITY EVERYONE ELSE IF YOU LIKE, BUT LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.
がっかり
DISAPPOINTED
AND SAYING TWIGGY IS A BIT MUCH.
Yeah! You tell her, Takashi!

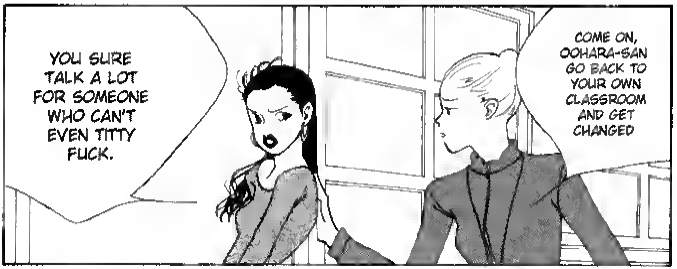

—Y-YOU'VE GOT A POINT...
ふう?...

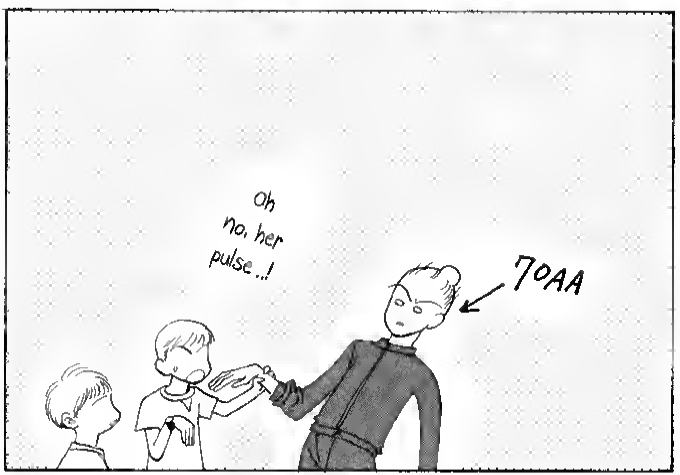

I WANNA KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU'RE CALLING FAT. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THAT!
BUT THAT'S NOT MY POINT!
DON'T TOUCH MY CHEST!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING! YOU PERVERT!
GAH!
BUT IT'S FAT, JUST LOOK AT ALL THIS MEAT HERE.
LARD! L-A-R-D.
IT'S JUST BLUBBER, RIGHT?

MY WAIST IS 53 CM! 53!
IT'S SUP-POSED TO BE THERE!
HMPH. ALL THAT TALK WHEN YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GROWN ANY HAIR.
パチン
ぴろ。
MINE IS 43!

WHAT? WELL WHAT ABOUT YOU?
PFFF
ぷっ
くす
giggle
くす
giggle
くす
I HAVE.

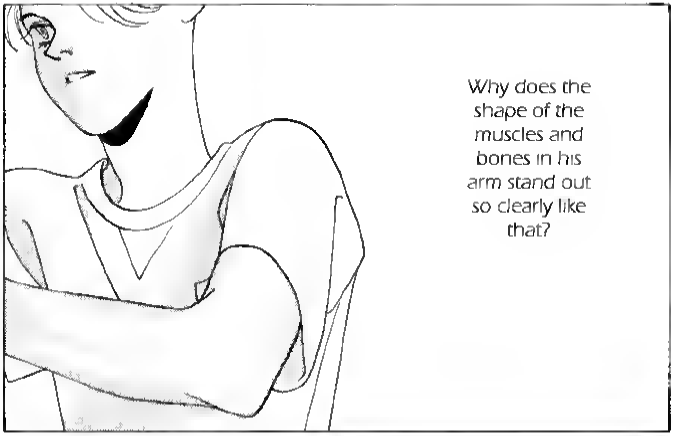

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING? YOU NEED TO HURRY UP AND CHANGE.
HEY, NOW.

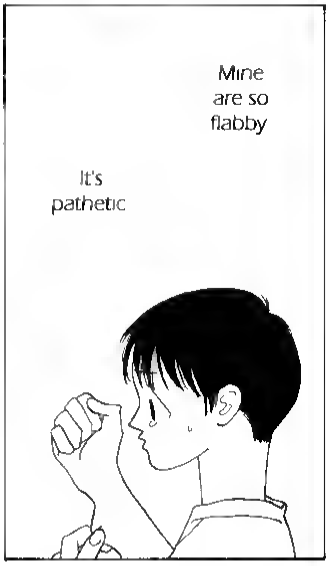

YOU SURE TALK A LOT FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN TITTY FUCK.
COME ON, OOHARA-SAN GO BACK TO YOUR OWN CLASSROOM AND GET CHANGED


Oh no, her pulse..!
TOAA

That breasts are fat but it's the kind you want to keep

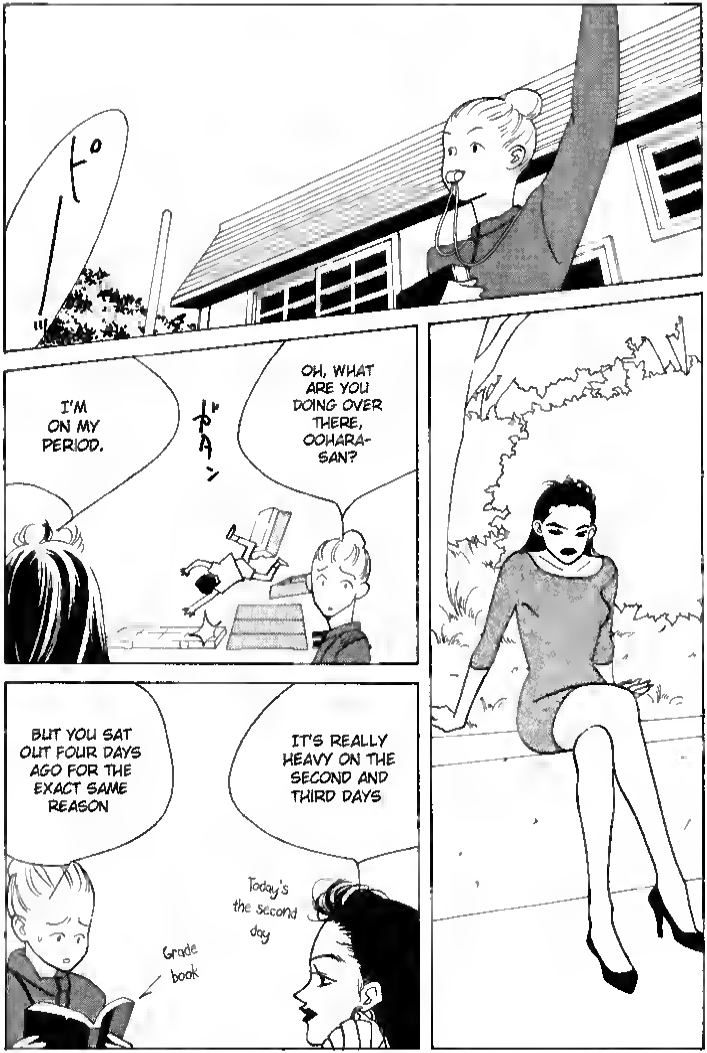
I guess Mom did say something like that when she was dieting...
1.
1.2.
1.2.3.4


Why does the shape of the muscles and bones in his arm stand out so clearly like that?

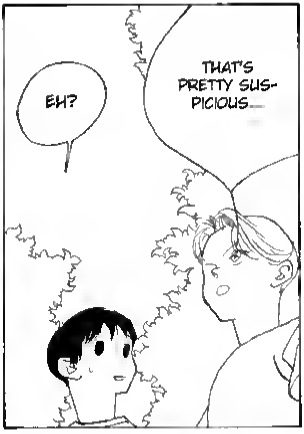

Mine are so flabby
It's pathetic

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP STARING AT ME?
THE EXERCISES ARE OVER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WATCH THE GROUP LEADER ANYMORE.
は。
Group Leader

I think
Takashi is
way cooler
than Oohara

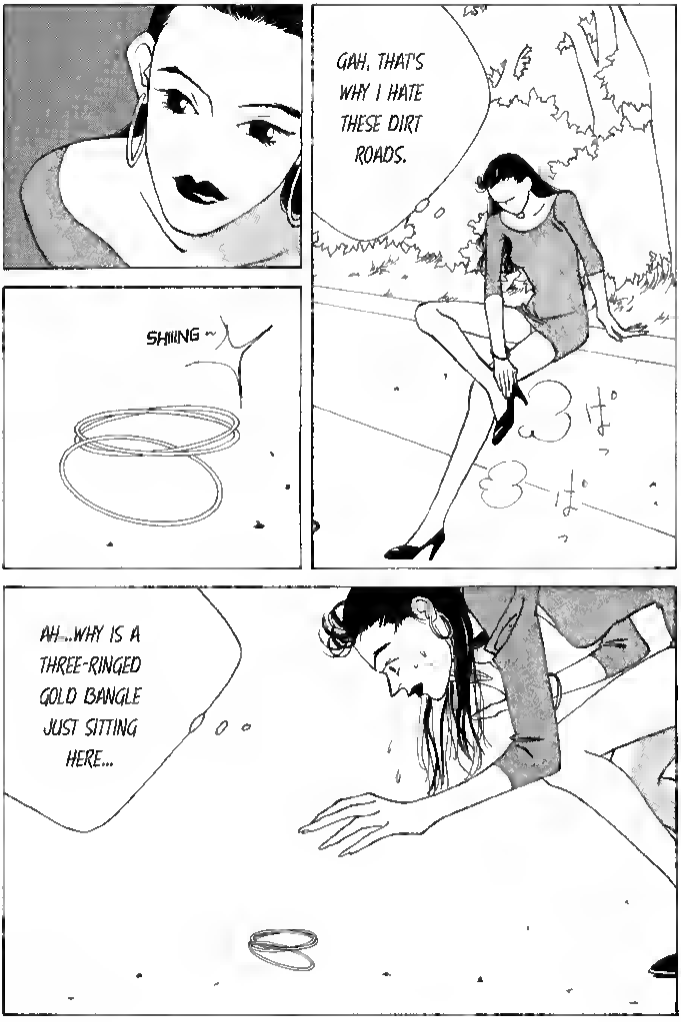

I'M ON MY PERIOD.
OH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE, OOHARA-SAN?
BUT YOU SAT OUT FOUR DAYS AGO FOR THE EXACT SAME REASON
IT'S REALLY HEAVY ON THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS
Today's the second day
Grade book

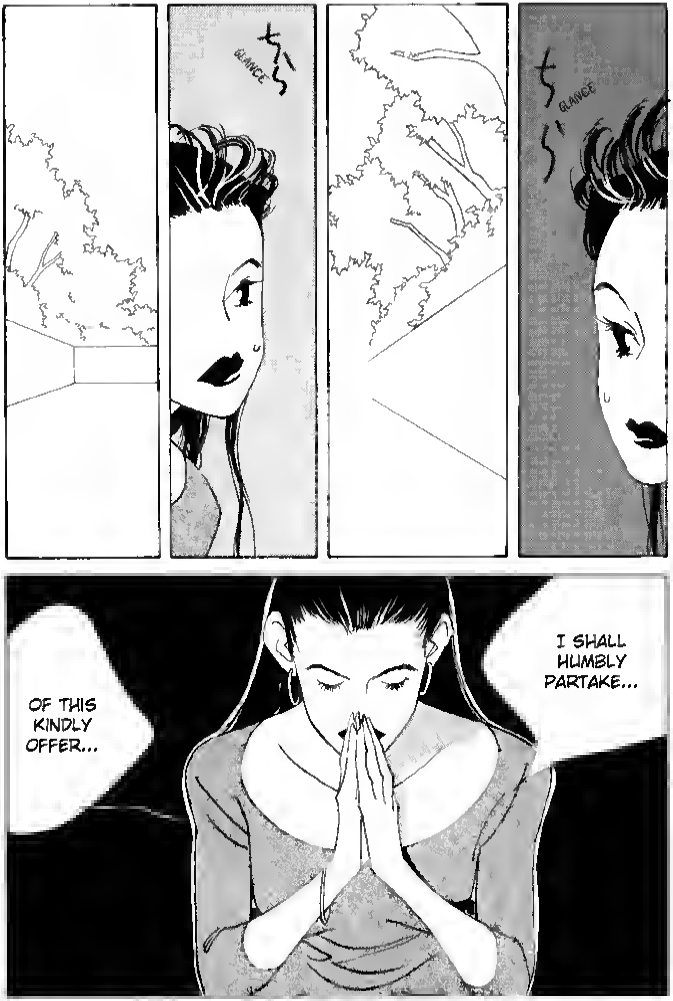
I HEARD THAT YOU'VE CLAIMED TO BE ON YOUR PERIOD EVERY GYM CLASS SINCE YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL
THAT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN ONCE CHANGED INTO YOUR GYM UNIFORM
O-OF COURSE I HAVEN'T! I'M NOT WEARING BLOOMERS LIKE SOME PISS-STINKING KID!
BUT A PISS-STINKING FOURTH GRADER IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE!
SENSEI, THAT'S SO CRUDE!
PISS-STINKING!?
YOU'RE CALLING ME CRUDE!?



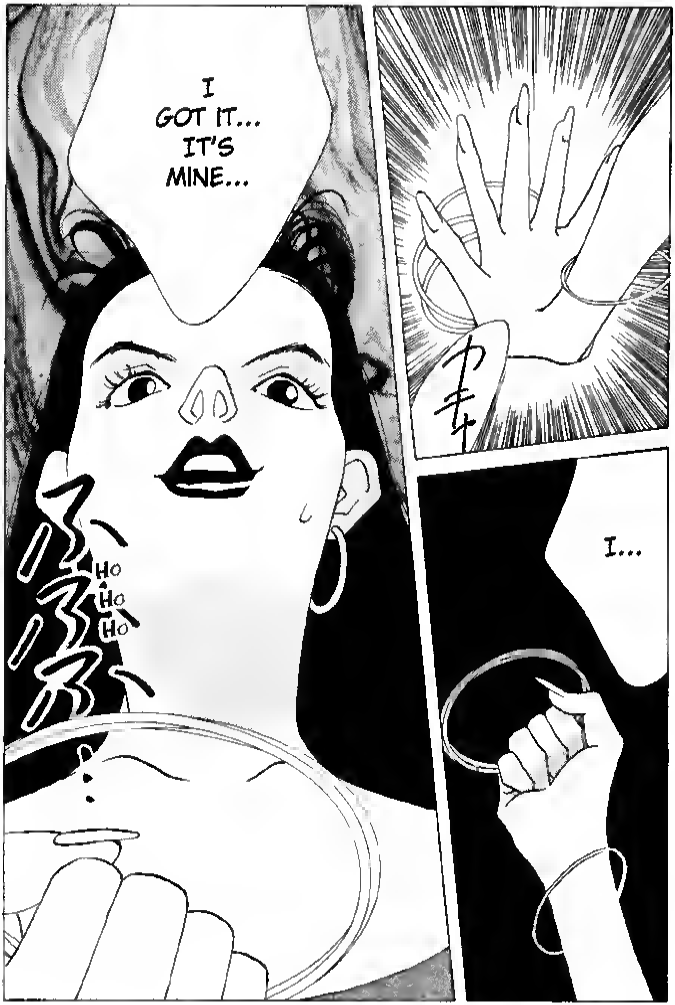
Note: Play dunce – What Takashi actually seems to be saying is not to be a "good timming boke." While 'boke' can just mean idiot, I think he may be referring to the tsukkomi (straight man) and boke (funny man) roles from manzai, a type of Japanese stand-up comedy which is often associated with the Osaka region/Kansai dialect. Basically, a boke will act stupid or forgetful and say something stupid, and the tsukkomi will berate them, often including a smack to the back of the head.

YOU WANNA CHECK?
HUH?
TWITCH

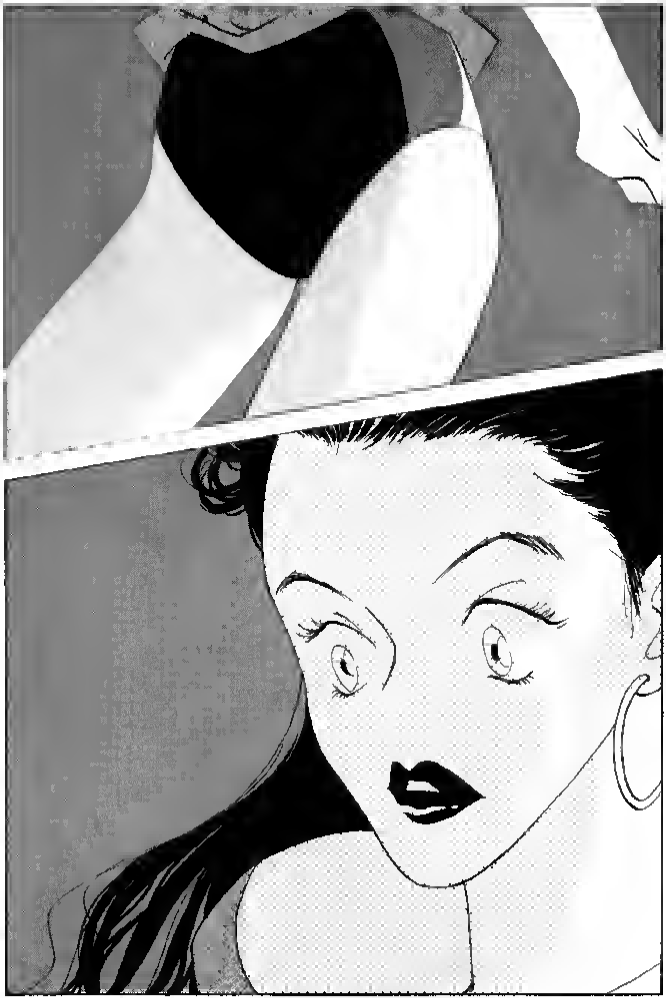

GAH, THAT'S WHY I HATE THESE DIRT ROADS.
SHIIING
AH...WHY IS A THREE-RINGED GOLD BANGLE JUST SITTING HERE...


ちら
GLANCE
ちら
GLANCE
OF THIS KINDLY OFFER...
I SHALL HUMBLY PARTAKE...

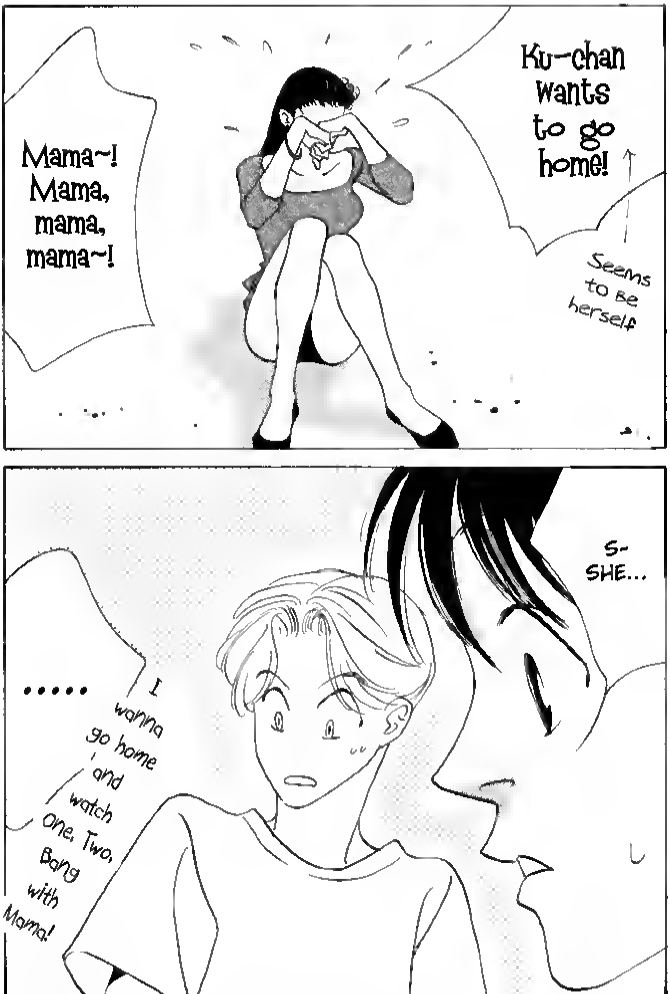
TO ME!
AH!
AH!


I GOT IT... IT'S MINE...
Ho Ho Ho
I...

Wha
...!?
kwHack
HA
HA
HA
HA!



Wa~
ah!
GOT
IT!
カンッ
YOW-
CH.
.....



Note: One, Two, Bang - A musical tv program that ran from the mid 70s to mid 90s. Aimed at elementary school children, particularly first graders.

HUH...
SO THEY GAVE HER ADULT'S CLOTHING SINCE NOTHING ELSE SUITED HER, BUT THEN HER REACTION TO KID'S CLOTHES GOT REALLY EXTREME.
SHE REVERTED TO INFANCY.
Got a call and had to come get her.
Mama, for lunch can I have a hamburger and some of those little red wieners?
Already bigger than her mom

職員室
NATU-
RALLY...
IT'S BETTER JUST TO LET THINGS GO NATURALLY.
SO IN THE END, YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO PUSH YOURSELF!

.....
えっ
YEAH. I'M SURE IF YOU JUST LET IT HAPPEN NATURALLY, YOU'LL GET HAIR DOWN THERE EVENTUALLY

SCENE·3——END

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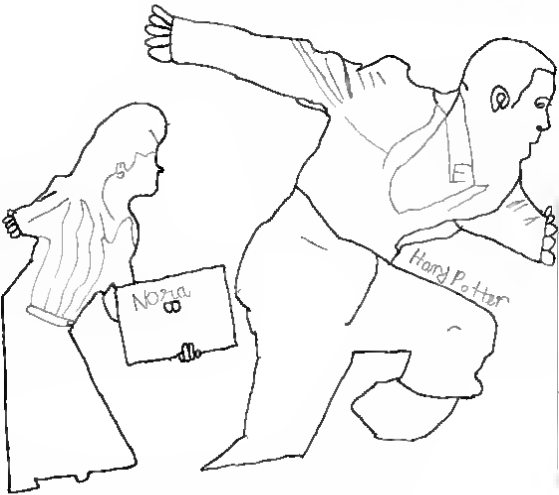

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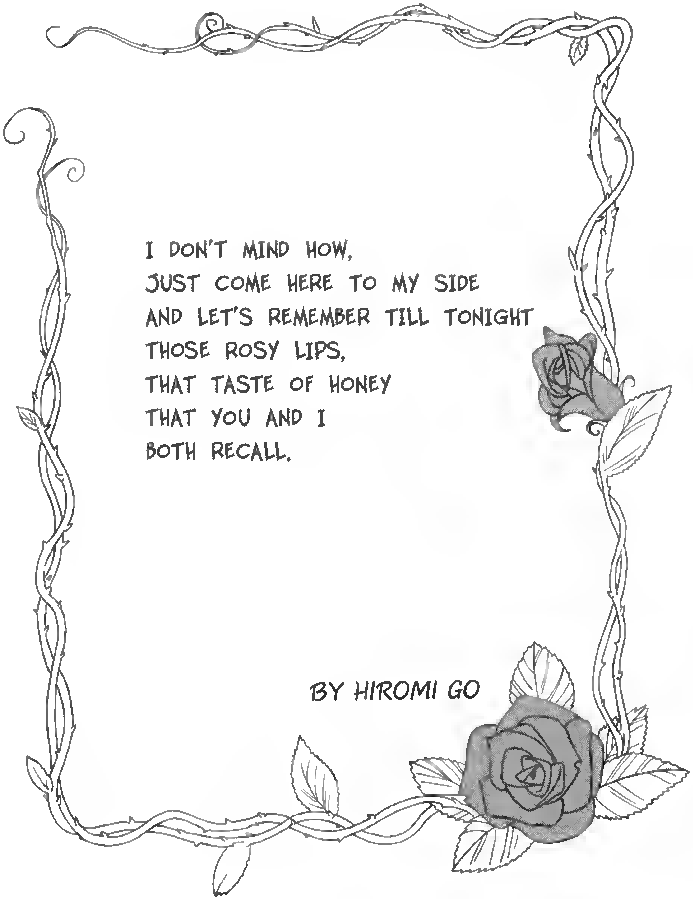
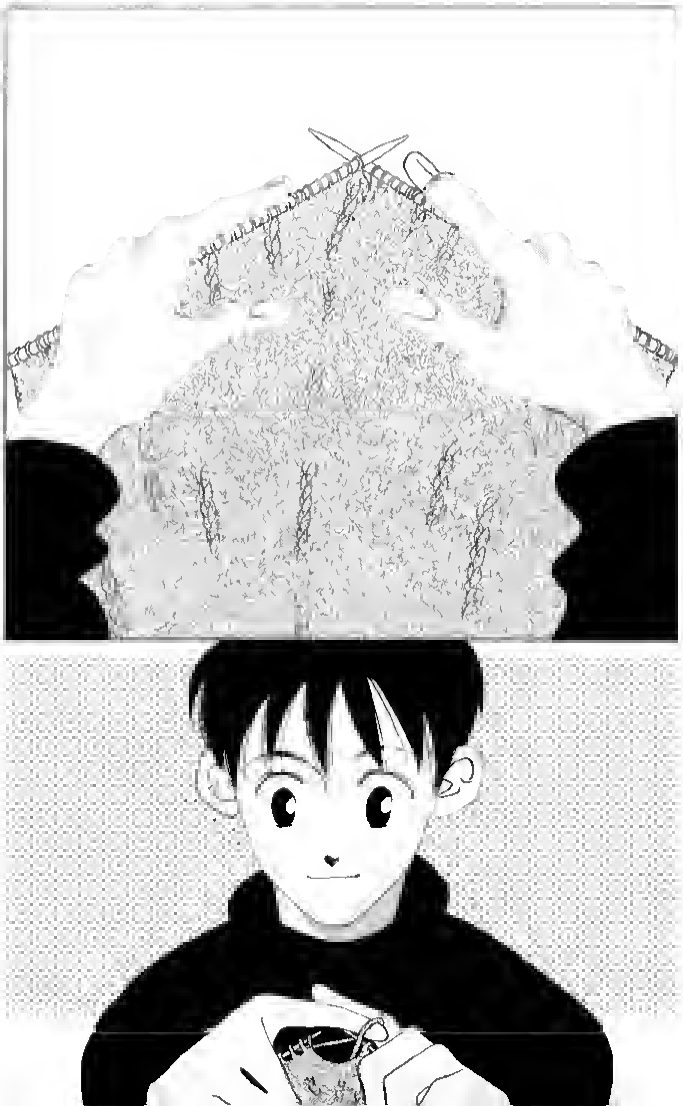
SCENE
4

TAMIO & TAKASHI



I DON'T MIND HOW,
JUST COME HERE TO MY SIDE
AND LET'S REMEMBER TILL TONIGHT
THOSE ROSY LIPS,
THAT TASTE OF HONEY
THAT YOU AND I
BOTH RECALL.

BY HIROMI GO



WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING? KNITTING OR SOMETHING...?
SO...
IT'S TOTALLY OBVIOUS
IT'S FOR CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?
HUH? WHY..
OH, I KNOW WHAT IT IS! A SOCK RIGHT? YOU'RE MAKING A SOCK, YOU LITTLE SNEAK!
AH!
UM.
EH...?
...YEAH.

THAT WAY YOU CAN GET EVEN BIGGER PRESENTS, RIGHT?
SO YOU MAKE A REALLY BIG SOCK
I FIGURED I COULD TAKE ONE OF MY DAD'S SOCKS AND HANG IT INSTEAD, BUT...
ACTUALLY, I TRIED THAT TRICK ONCE MYSELF, BUT IT DIDN'T REALLY WORK
IT'S SO SNEAKY! TOTALLY PETTY!
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
dad 22.5 cm
24.5 cm
HIS FEET WERE EVEN SMALLER THAN MINE

I'M JUST GOOD WITH STUFF LIKE THIS. I ALWAYS GET 10'S IN HOME EC.
THOUGH YOU SURE CAN KNIT WELL, HUH?
I can't figure that kind of thing out.
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR RELYING ON A DAD WITH THE BODY OF A LITTLE KID.
.....
Is it really just the body.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET SOME OF THE GIRLS IN THIS CLASS DRINK SOME OF YOUR SNOT?
EEEK-
You mean the dirt in my nails?

Note To drink the dirt under someone's nails is a Japanese expression derived from the superstition that a person's talents may be stolen by drinking a potion made from their nail scrapings

HUH?

WELL, I HATE CHRISTMAS ANYWAY, SO DO WHAT YOU LIKE.

BUT WHY!? CHRISTMAS... CHRISTMAS IS...!

IT'S THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE ENTIRE YEAR, EVEN BIGGER THAN CHILDREN'S DAY OR YOUR BIRTHDAY!
YOU EAT CHICKEN,
YOU EAT CAKE,
YOU EAT STOCKINGS FULL OF CANDY...!
IS EATING ALL YOU THINK ABOUT?
You even get to drink kid's champagne!
....

*Note Children's Day - A national Japanese Holiday dedicated to respecting children and celebrating their happiness and future success. Carp-shaped streamers are hung, warrior dolls are displayed, and rice dumplings and cakes are eaten. Falls on May 5th.

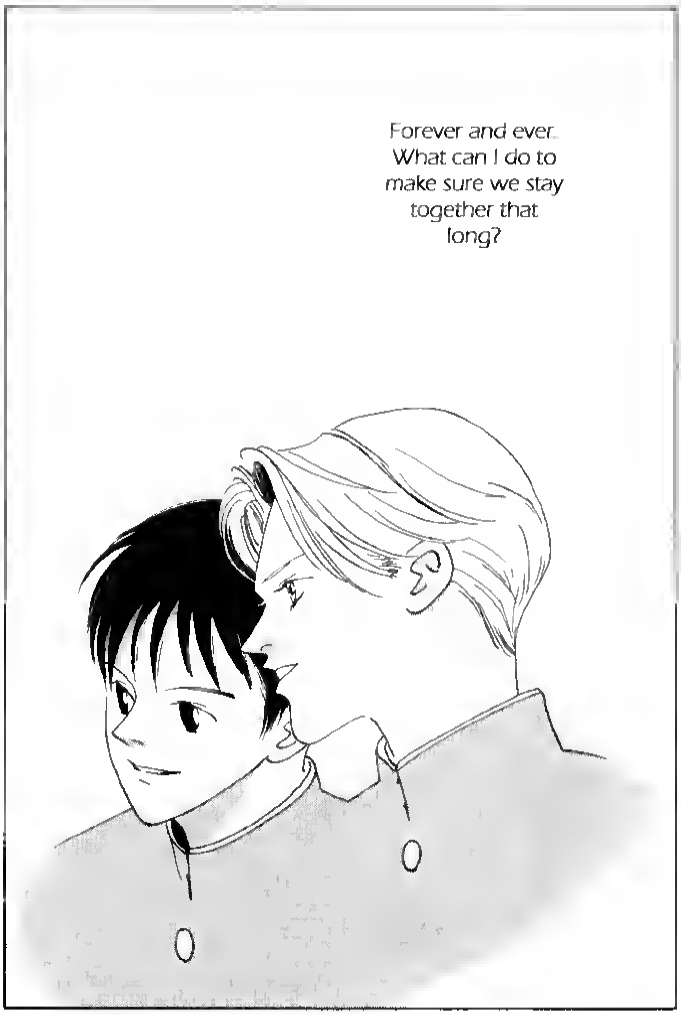
JUST LIKE THE CANDY SHOPS ON VALENTINES!
EXACTLY! THE TOY STORES ARE LAUGHING IT UP!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE THEIR LITTLE DANCING MONKEYS!
AND BESIDES THAT, YOU GET PRES-ENTS!
A dazzling harem of toys!
I DON'T LIKE IT. BUT IF YOU DO, I GUESS IT'S OK.
BUT LIKE I SAID,
I'll keep dancing forever.

ANYWAY, LET'S GO TO THE MOUNTAIN TOMORROW. WE CAN GO FISHING IN THE RIVER.
I...
とぼ"
とぼ

Even though I knit Takashi a sweater...
sweater that would never be worn...
Ouch!
dung
SNIFF

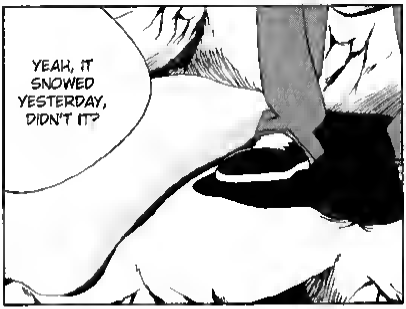
Well, be more considerate of my tender butt!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND SOMETHING FLAT ON A PATH LIKE THIS?
OUCH! CAN'T YOU DRIVE ON A FLATTER PART OF THE ROAD!?
ガチャ
ガチャ

Even during high school...
If we'll always be able to stay together, just like that...
I wonder...


Forever and ever.
What can I do to
make sure we stay
together that
long?

HUH?
SO WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING IN THE BAG?

N-NOTHING REALLY IMPORTANT. I...JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL.
.....

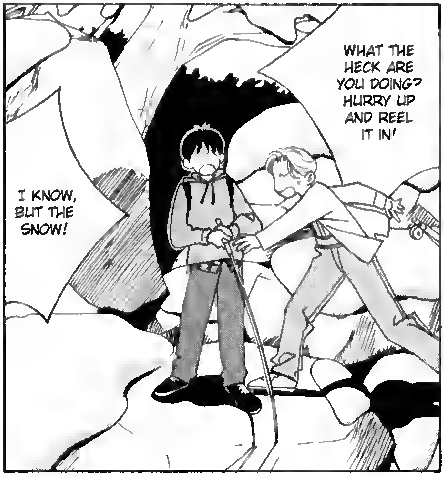

YEAH, IT SNOWED YESTERDAY, DIDN'T IT?

WHATEVER, JUST WATCH YOUR FOOTING AROUND THERE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE SKY LOOKS A LITTLE DOUBTFUL DOESN'T IT?
どんより
TAMIO

IT'S STARTING TO SNOW, TAKASHI!
HEY, YOU'VE GOT A BITE!

OH!


WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND REEL IT IN!
I KNOW, BUT THE SNOW!

IT'S FINE! IT'S NOT LIKE A BLIZZARD IS GOING TO START UP JUST LIKE THAT, ANYWAY!
SHOULDN'T WE GO HOME IN CASE IT GETS BAD?

ひょうううううう

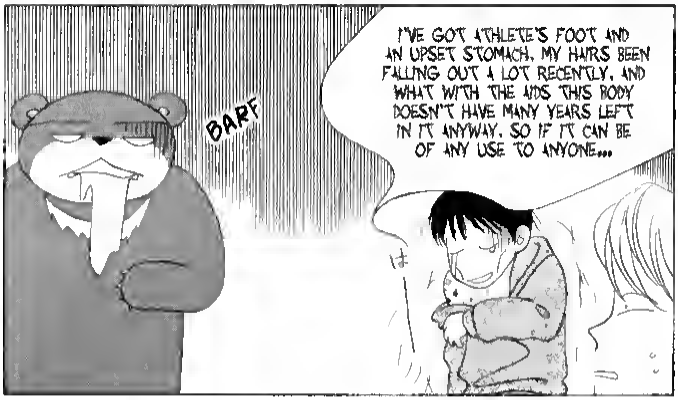
I'M SURE IT'LL BE OVER IN NO TIME
I'M SO HUNGRY...
ぐ〜
grumble grumble

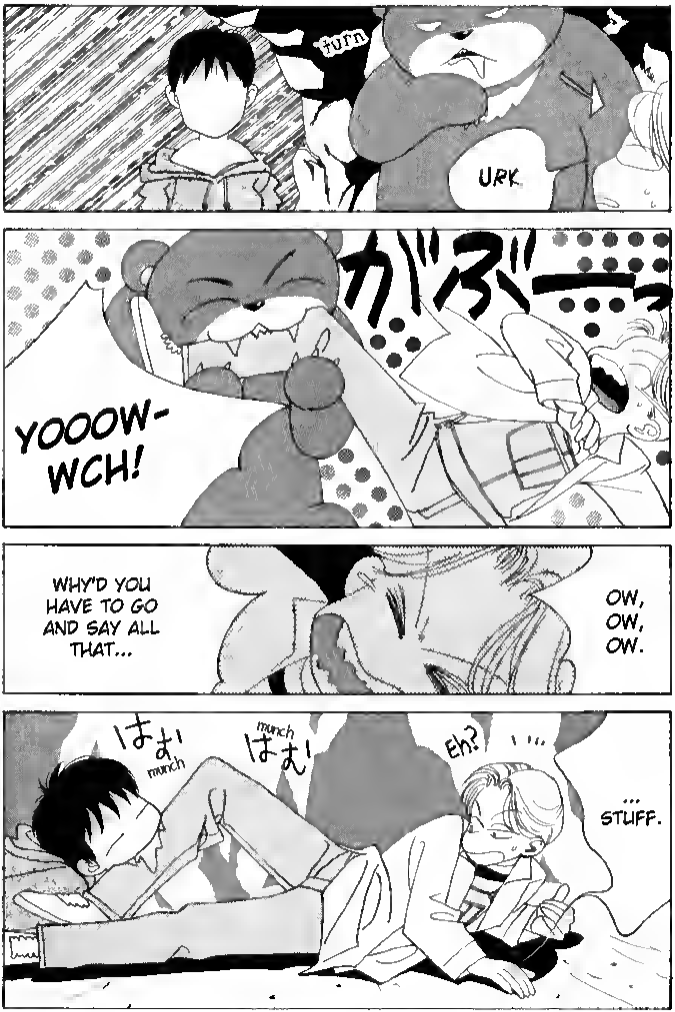
.....
WHAT? DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
ゴォォォ

MOM SAID SHE WAS GONNA MAKE STEW TODAY I WONDER IF SHE PUT ANY MACARONI IN IT...
そろ
BUT I'M SO HUNGRY.
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND FOOD, ANYWAY?
YOU'RE NOT SOME BEAR GOING INTO HIBERNATION. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH YOUR STOMA...
ゴオオ GRWL
YOU KNOW...
WHAT'S WRONG?

DON'T EAT TAKASHI! EAT...
TA... TAMIO ...
EAT ME INSTEAD!

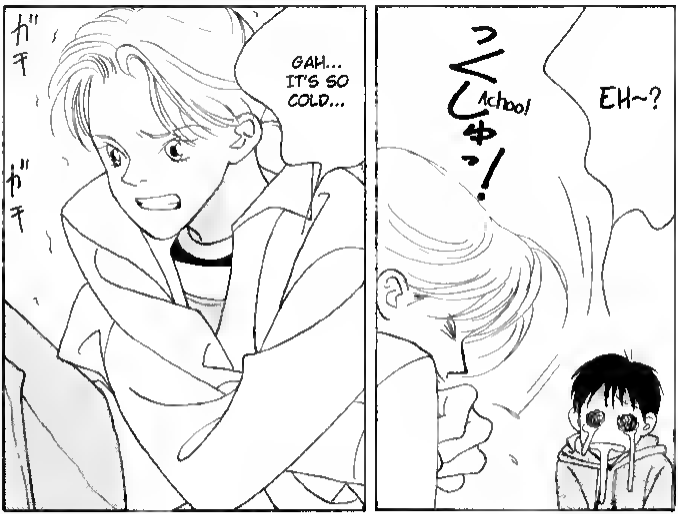
EH!?
I-IT'S A... B-B-B-BEAR!
カ"


I'VE GOT ATHLETE'S FOOT AND AN UPSET STOMACH. MY HAIR'S BEEN FALLING OUT A LOT RECENTLY, AND WHAT WITH THE AIDS THIS BODY DOESN'T HAVE MANY YEARS LEFT IN IT ANYWAY. SO IF IT CAN BE OF ANY USE TO ANYONE...
BARF


turn
URK
YOOOW-
WCH!
がぶーっ
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND SAY ALL THAT...
OW, OW, OW.
はむ
munch
はむ
munch
Eh?
...
STUFF.

ごばん
OUCH!
.....

HUH? WHA? WHERE'D THE FRIED CHICKEN GO? MY CHICKEN...
You.
. YOU TRIED TO EAT ME.


EH~?
こくしゅっ!
Achoo!
GAH... IT'S SO COLD...
ガキ
ガキ

IF WE'D KEPT SLEEPING LIKE THAT, WE COULD HAVE DIED
THOUGH IT'S A GOOD THING WE WOKE UP
がた
がた
がた
ぶる
SHIVER
AAAH...
ぶる
SHIVER

HERE...
TAKASHI...

I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOU...FOR CHRISTMAS...
BUT THEN YOU SAID YOU HATED CHRISTMAS, SO...
YEAH.
YOU'VE GOT A SWEATER. SO THAT'S WHAT YOU HAD IN THERE.
I KNIT IT MYSELF.

...
TAMIO...
GWAH!

べろん
Aren't you over doing it!?
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? I KNIT THAT BY HAND!
がばっ
NOW WE CAN DO THIS.
UH!?
JEEZ, SHUT UP.
WAAAAH!
WAAAAH

ANYWAY, IT'S WARM LIKE THIS SO WE WON'T DIE.
Here, put your arm in it.
AH...
SURE.
blush

The sweater really was warm...

But Takashi was even warmer.

I thought I would never forget that warmth for the rest of my life

Even if we really were separated someday

After that, the snow finally stopped, and we were saved.
TAKASHI-KUN IS STAYING HOME SICK TODAY.
Uuuugh...
Uuuh...
THE REASON HE WAS SO WARM WAS BECAUSE HE HAD A FEVER.

SCENE·4——END

TERU-CHAN'S DINER
照ちゃん食堂

Note: "Father" is written on Takashi's forehead.

AH!
OWW! OW, OW, OW!
THE SON OF A DINER FAMILY SHOULD USE A WOODEN SPOON!
照ちゃん食堂
FIRST, START OFF WITH FIVE SETS OF TWENTY SWINGS!
AND AFTER THAT...
Ah! You dented my h...d!
WHOOSH
!?

FOR A CRAFTSMAN, THE BASICS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, TAMIO.
SEVEN SETS WITH THE KNIFE!
DO NOT ALLOW THE INGREDI-ENTS TO LOOSE THEIR FRESH-NESS!
I NEVER SAID I WANTED TO BE YOUR SUCCES-SOR..
CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!

YOU'RE HOPELESS, FATHER. A CRAFTSMAN CAN'T CUT HIS FINGERS.
....

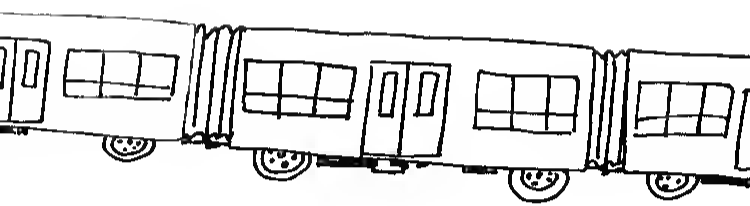
YOU WON'T SUCCEED ME!?
THOUGH DID YOU KNOW THAT LATELY THEY'VE BEEN TRANSPLANTING TOES ONTO HANDS?
THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU WANT A SPORTS SUPPLY STORE?
BUT WHY!? WHY THIS ALL THE SUDDEN!?
EH? YOU CAN'T TELL JUST BY LOOKING?
See?
TRY DROPPING THE WHOLE CRAFTSMAN VEIN.
A BAT CRAFTSMAN?

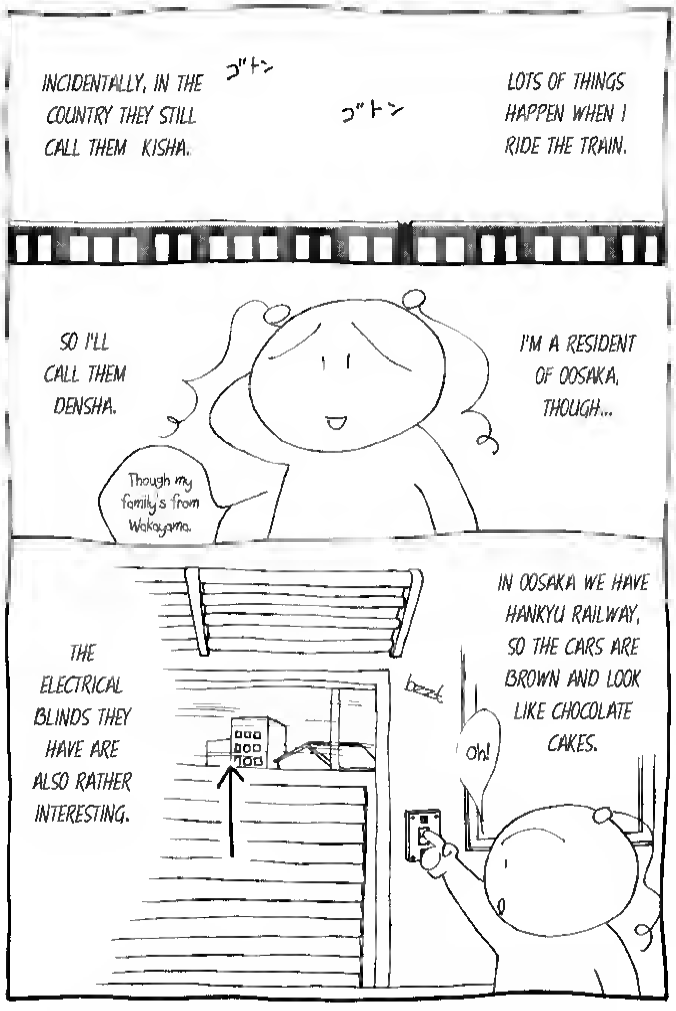
DAD...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR DREAMS, SON.
I'M GOING TO...
I KNOW.
rub

パラ
パラッ
HAA...
AH.
TRY MY WHITE BALL!
CATCH IT AND IT'S FREE!!!
NOW THAT'S THINKING LIKE A BUSINESS-MAN, TAMIO!
.....
野球ずし
BASEBALL SUSHI

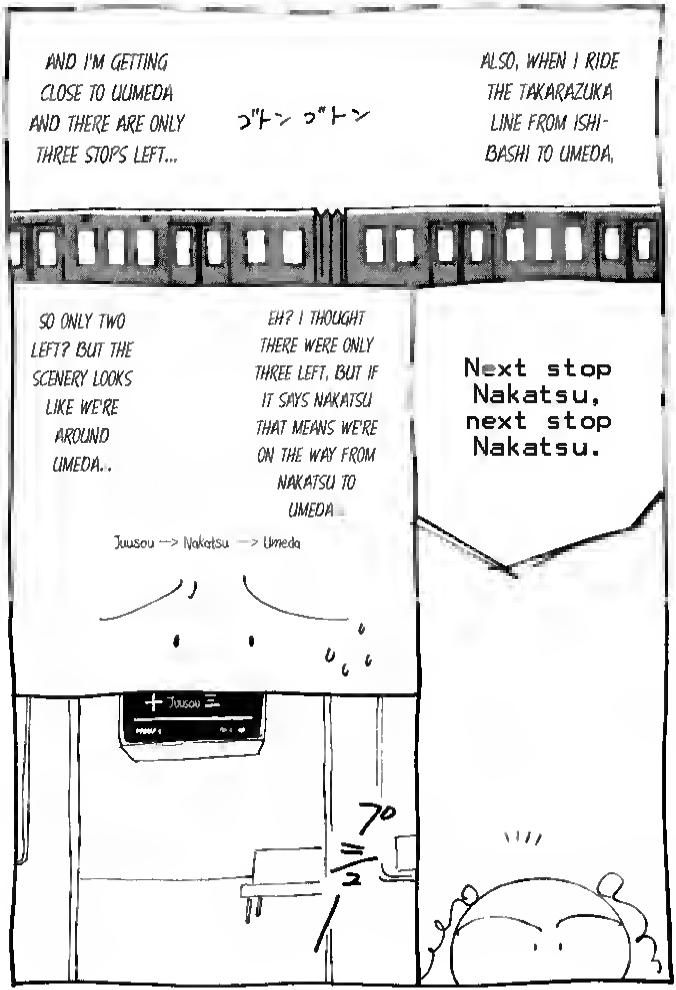
照ちゃん食堂——END

The Train



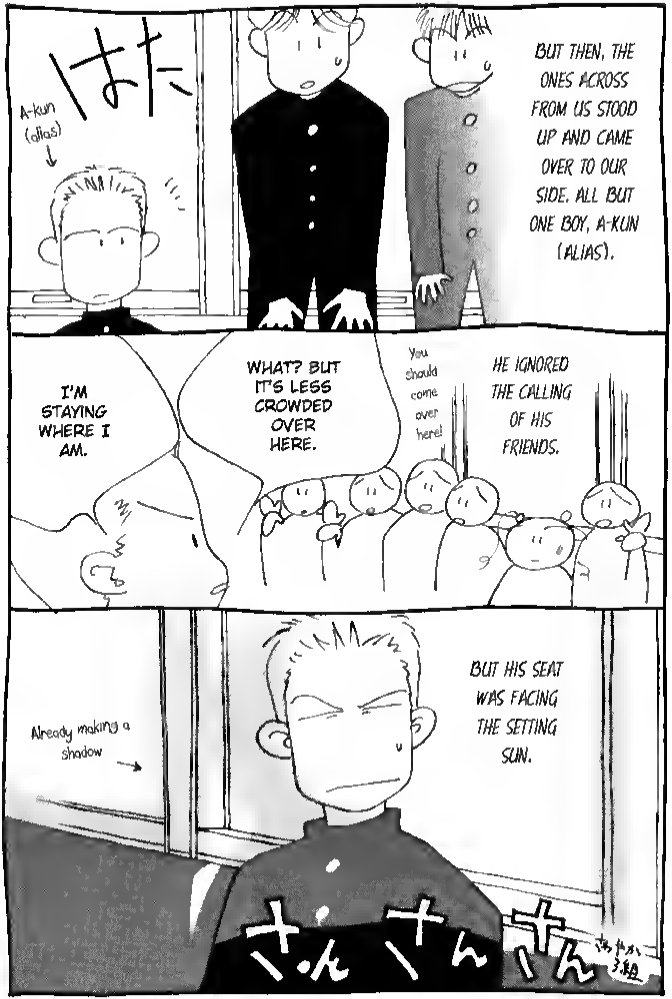

INCIDENTALLY, IN THE COUNTRY THEY STILL CALL THEM KISHA.
ゴトン
ゴトン
LOTS OF THINGS HAPPEN WHEN I RIDE THE TRAIN.
SO I'LL CALL THEM DENSHA.
Though my family's from Wakayama.
I'M A RESIDENT OF OOSAKA, THOUGH...
THE ELECTRICAL BLINDS THEY HAVE ARE ALSO RATHER INTERESTING.
beep
Oh!
IN OOSAKA WE HAVE HANKYU RAILWAY, SO THE CARS ARE BROWN AND LOOK LIKE CHOCOLATE CAKES.

Note: Kisha: Usually used to refer to steam trains. Normally trains are called "densha."
Oosaka/Wakayama: Neighboring prefectures in the Kansai region. Osaka's capital is one of Japan's largest cities, so I assume the state is likewise populated and urban. Wakayama seems to be much more small and rural.


AND I'M GETTING CLOSE TO UMEDA AND THERE ARE ONLY THREE STOPS LEFT...
ゴトン ゴトン
ALSO, WHEN I RIDE THE TAKARAZUKA LINE FROM ISHIBASHI TO UMEDA,
SO ONLY TWO LEFT? BUT THE SCENERY LOOKS LIKE WE'RE AROUND UMEDA...
EH? I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY THREE LEFT, BUT IF IT SAYS NAKATSU THAT MEANS WE'RE ON THE WAY FROM NAKATSU TO UMEDA
Juusou --> Nakatsu --> Umeda
Next stop Nakatsu, next stop Nakatsu.
Juusou
70

NOW WHAT? WHAT'S COMING UP AFTER THAT?
SO JUUSOU IS NEXT AFTER ALL.
EH... AFTER THAT...
bodump bodump
WAIT, NAKATSU IS NEXT AFTER THAT!

AH, THERE ARE SEATS OPEN!
OH, HIGH SCHOOL KIDS! THEY'RE SO CUTE...
THE ACTUAL RIDING ISN'T ALL THAT'S INTERESTING, EITHER. ONE EVENING, I SAW FIVE OR SIX HIGH SCHOOL KIDS ON THEIR WAY HOME.
ドカ
ドカ
THE OTHERS WERE ACROSS THE ISLE.
ドス
ドス
HALF OF THEM SAT DOWN RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
Feh.


はた
A-kun (alias)
BUT THEN, THE ONES ACROSS FROM US STOOD UP AND CAME OVER TO OUR SIDE. ALL BUT ONE BOY, A-KUN (ALIAS).
I'M STAYING WHERE I AM.
WHAT? BUT IT'S LESS CROWDED OVER HERE.
You should come over here!
HE IGNORED THE CALLING OF HIS FRIENDS.
Already making a shadow
BUT HIS SEAT WAS FACING THE SETTING SUN.
さん さん さん

AAAAH. I CAN WITH-STAND THIS.
Pert.
HIS FRIENDS (AND ME INSIDE MY HEAD) WERE ALL LAUGHING AT HIM.
BUT THEY WEREN'T THE ROLLING CURTAIN BLINDS.
bzzzz
NOT FINDING IT VERY FUNNY, A-KUN CLOSED THE BLINDS ON THE OTHER SIDE.
THUS, HE AGAIN GOT A LAUGH OUT OF HIS AUDIENCE, WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.
SO THIS WAS HOW HE ENDED UP.
Haa— It's in my eyes

でんしゃ——END

ASUKA COMICS DELUXE
ぼくたち男の子 1

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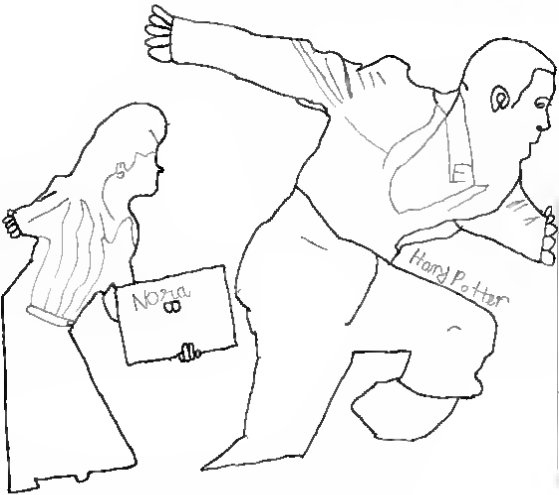

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